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## Sid the Kid up for the Hart

**MVP** A trio of high-scoring forwards are this year's nominees for the NHL's most valuable player award — and Cole Harbour's Sidney Crosby is on that list.

The Pittsburgh Penguins centre is nominated for the Hart Trophy against Washington Capitals



sniper Alex Ovechkin and Vancouver Canucks playmaker Henrik Sedin.

Crosby, the 2007 winner, established a career high with 51 goals, tying him with Steven Stamkos for the league lead.

Ovechkin, the defending champion, tied Crosby for second in league scoring with 109 points (50 goals, 59 assists).

Sedin earned a Hart nomination after capturing his first Art Ross Trophy as NHL scoring champion.

The winner will be announced June 23 in Las Vegas.

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# Charged with murder

Man arrested in connection with Dartmouth woman's death

JON TATTRE  
for Metro Halifax

**A Dartmouth man was arrested and charged with second-degree murder Thursday over the death of a woman in October.**

Clarence Michael McLeod, 55, was arrested without incident in Dartmouth on Thursday morning, Halifax Regional Police say.

He appeared in the Dartmouth provincial court Thursday afternoon looking tired and unfocused.

The balding man with a grey beard wore a puffy black coat and faded jeans. He didn't speak during his brief appearance before Judge Alanna Murphy and was remanded into custody at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility in Burnside until his next court appearance on May 20, when a date will be set for a preliminary inquiry.

Police say a friend found Roxanne Page, 49, dead in a Roleika Drive residence in Dartmouth on Oct. 17.

She had come to check up on her, police say. She also found an injured man at the scene. Police were called and arrested the man and took him to hospital suffering from what they described as self-inflicted wounds.

Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said Thursday the man injured at the scene was McLeod. He was released in October pending the results of an autopsy on Page, which police say show the death was a homicide.

"At the time, there were



Clarence Michael McLeod is escorted from Dartmouth provincial court yesterday. The 55-year-old Dartmouth man is facing a charge of second-degree murder in the death of 49-year-old Roxanne Page from last October.

no obvious signs of trauma to the body," Palmeter said. "The results of the autopsy were obtained earlier this week and as a result, investigators made an arrest this morning."

Palmeter said he couldn't release Page's cause of death while the case was before the court. He said McLeod and Page had known each other, but the nature of their relationship at the time of

Page's death was unclear to investigators.

McLeod has multiple criminal convictions and has served time in prison before.

Not too hard for minors to get smokes, study finds

**HEALTH** One in three tobacco retailers in Nova Scotia will sell smokes to minors, according to a report released Thursday.

The Canadian Cancer Society study found more than 34 per cent of tobacco retailers in Nova Scotia were willing to sell butts illegally when approached by a 17-year-old test purchaser.

For younger test purchasers, the figures are more encouraging — 90 per cent of retailers refused to sell tobacco products to 15- and 16-year-olds, according to the survey. When all three age categories are combined, 80 per cent of retailers refused to sell to minors.

But Canadian Cancer Society spokeswoman Meg McCallum said the overall rate may be deceiving.

"If you look at the overall rate, it looks quite encouraging," she said. "But when you look at the rate for the 17-year olds ... (Nova Scotia) is the worst in the country."

Jamie, a student at Citadel High School who wouldn't give his last name Thursday, said he knows a corner store owner that sells him smokes, despite knowing he's a minor. He said it's just as easy to buy cigarettes as alcohol — sometimes easier.

"A lot of stores won't sell them to you, but a couple will ... I wouldn't say that it's hard," he said.

ALEX BOUTILIER/  
FOR METRO HALIFAX

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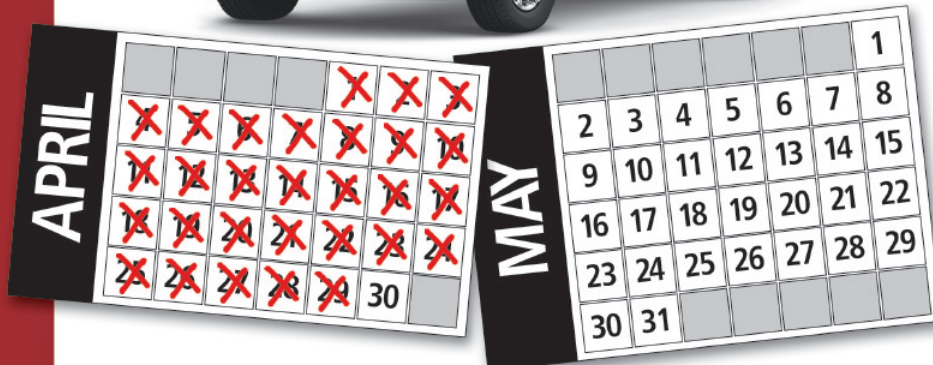
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3

# Local



## Blood clinic to honour Mountie

A Nova Scotia RCMP officer who died in January's devastating earthquake in Haiti is having a blood donor clinic take place in his honour Friday. The RCMP and Canadian Blood Services is asking everyone to take part in a blood clinic to honour Sgt. Mark Gallagher, left, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Halifax Military Community Centre. Gallagher, well known in both police and media circles, left Halifax in July for a peace operation in Haiti where he trained Haitian police as part of a UN mission.

METRO HALIFAX



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## Man sought in armed robbery at hair salon

**SACKVILLE** Police are looking for a suspect in relation to an armed robbery in Lower Sackville.

At approximately 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Halifax RCMP say a man entered Sheer Indulgence, a hair salon located at 536 Sackville Dr.

Police say the man threatened a store employee with pepper spray and left the store with an undisclosed amount of cash from the register. He proceeded to flee the store on foot toward Seawood Avenue.

METRO HALIFAX



People watch smoke fill the air from last spring's wildfire in the Spryfield area.

## Fire lawsuits about bottom line: Mayor Kelly comes out swinging against insurers

ALEX BOUTILIER  
for Metro Halifax

**Mayor Peter Kelly had harsh words on Thursday for insurance companies suing the municipality and its fire services over the handling of last spring's wildfires in Spryfield.**

Kelly said lawsuits filed by the insurance companies who paid out for those who lost homes in the fires are trying to enhance the insurers' bottom lines on the backs of HRM taxpayers.

"For the insurers to come at the firefighters and HRM, again, it's a matter of the bottom line, not a matter of anything else ... That's what it's all about," Kelly said.

There were 18 lawsuits, according to the CBC, filed



Peter Kelly

against HRM and Halifax regional fire services late Wednesday afternoon in relation to the wildfire that destroyed eight homes, damaged 10 others and forced hundreds of people into rescue shelters.

Taken together, the lawsuits would reportedly total about \$10 million.

The lawsuits allege firefighters were negligent in fighting the wildfires. The Department of Natural Resources announced in October the fire was caused by an unextinguished campfire.

Kelly said the municipality will "vigorously" defend the firefighters, who

he applauded for their work in battling the blaze in late April and early May.

"Our firefighters use their professional judgment," Kelly said. "They do their overall assessments of a risk, and in that particular event they could not have foreseen the rapid change of conditions, including the drop of humidity as well as the temperature rise and the wind that increased substantially."

According to the mayor, the insurance companies, not the residents, are leading the charge in the lawsuits.

"As I understand, (the residents) have already been reimbursed for their claims. The insurers are now trying to reimburse themselves for the claims that they paid out to (the residents)," said Kelly.

## Drugs, firearms seized after police make arrests

ALEX BOUTILIER  
for Metro Halifax

**CRIME** Halifax Regional Police say they seized drugs and firearms after arresting a man in relation to threatening behaviour this week.

Police received reports just after 7 p.m. on Wednesday of two men in a truck following two people in a cab — allegedly with the intention of harming the people in the taxi.

"There was indications that they were going to hurt these other people," said police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter.

Police say the truck was stopped on Quinpool Road, and two men were arrested.

A subsequent search of the suspects, police allege, revealed a butterfly knife — a prohibited folded knife that flips open.

As a result of the incident, police searched one of the suspects' residence on the 6000 block of Cedar Street. Police say the search revealed an undisclosed

**"There was indications that they were going to hurt these other people."**

HRM Const. Brian Palmeter

amount of marijuana, hash and cocaine, as well as a loaded handgun, a shotgun and ammunition. An undisclosed amount of cash was also seized in the search.

Palmeter said both suspects were known to police, and were known by the people in the cab. He could not specify, however, the relationship between the suspects and the cab occupants.

James Arthur Williams, a 31-year-old from Halifax, appeared in Halifax provincial court Thursday to face numerous drugs and weapons charges from the alleged incident. He was remanded into police custody, and will appear in court again Friday.

## Crown to appeal acquittal of woman in alleged murder plot

**COURT** The Crown has filed notice that it will appeal the acquittal of a Nova Scotia woman who was charged with trying to arrange her husband's murder.

Nicole Ryan, 39, was cleared of all wrongdoing when a Supreme Court judge accepted her defence of duress during a 2009 trial.

Her lawyer had argued that Michael Ryan was a controlling man who occasionally used firearms to

intimidate his wife.

Justice David Farrar said he believed the claims, adding that he placed little significance on the woman's failure to report cases of domestic abuse.

Chris Hansen, a spokeswoman for the public prosecution service, said they believe that Farrar erred in law in that he failed to consider whether the alleged response was proportionate to the perceived danger.

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Fresh off what organizers call another "banner" Halifax ComedyFest, the dates for the 2011 event were announced Thursday. Next year's show runs from April 13 to 16 at various venues in Halifax. This year's Halifax ComedyFest ended last weekend and saw all nine shows sold out. **METRO HALIFAX**

## Grand Parade Everybody dance now



A group of people were dancing and having a good time at Halifax's Grand Parade Thursday during lunch hour to celebrate International Dance Day, which is recognized with events around the world.

## Trade-centre studies set to be released Friday

**REQUESTS** Four up-until-now confidential studies on the viability of a new trade centre in downtown Halifax will be released Friday.

The anti-convention centre group Save the View filed freedom of information requests for the studies but what they got back was

mostly redacted.

Transportation Minister Bill Estabrooks later told his staff to look into releasing the uncensored studies.

Staff said Thursday they were readying those for release the next day.

The main document is a convention centre business

case by the firm Deloitte, but three other studies have also been done.

The province will decide in July whether to fund the 1.4-million-square-foot facility estimated to cost between \$300 million and \$350 million.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

# NDP defend costs of outside consultants

Spending is lower, they say after Liberal charge

PAUL MCLEOD  
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

Liberals say the NDP have broken their campaign promise to cut down on outside consultants, but the government says it plans to slash \$14 million of consultation costs this year.

The row was kicked off during question period when Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil tried to paint the NDP as hypocrites for abandoning their election promise to save money on doing fewer consultations.

McNeil pointed to a Deloitte finance report, rural ER review and recent auto insurance review as a few examples.

McNeil asked for a total cost to analyze whether it's been worth it.

"They said during the election they would not be hiring outside consultants,

**"What do they expect us to do? These are big, important decisions and we get the best professional advice that we can. What do they want us to go on, our gut feeling?"**

Finance Minister Graham Steele

they have been. We're just simply asking the question of how much it costs," McNeil said.



Stephen McNeil

Finance Minister Graham Steele denied his party ever claimed it would cut out consultations completely.

"What do they expect us to do? These are big, important decisions and we get the best professional advice that we can. What do they want us to go on, our gut feeling?" said Steele.

"What is surprising to me is how many big, important decisions the previous government appears to have made just based on the back of an envelope."

Because consultations don't fall under one neat budget line item, government staff say it's difficult to calculate how much the province spends each year on outside consulting firms.

It's safe to say the amount is in the hundreds of millions.

When Steele asked for departments to plan to cut spending by one per cent, many slashed consultants first to the overall tune of \$4 million.

Staff say the treasury board has decreed \$10 million on top of that will be cut over this fiscal year, and have instituted tighter rules on getting consultant contracts confirmed in order to enforce that.

## Public insurance not ruled out, says Steele

**FINANCE** Nova Scotia's finance minister said Thursday he hasn't ruled out going to a public insurance system if the current structure becomes too expensive.

Graham Steele said he doesn't expect to move in that direction, but concedes that it is possible if rates go up sharply in the future.

He made the comments a day after his NDP government tripled the limits for pain and suffering insurance payouts when motorists suffer minor injuries.

Steele said the cap for minor injuries, such as whiplash, will to \$7,500 from \$2,500.

He argues that an actuarial study shows it won't mean higher insurance rates.

Steele said it won't be retroactive to 2003 when

the cap was introduced because it would create too much instability.

New Brunswick's Justice Minister said Thursday he wants to look at the facts before deciding whether to follow Nova Scotia's lead.

Kelly Lamrock said he doesn't want to do anything that could result in insurance companies hiking rates or denying service.

The cap remains at \$2,500 in New Brunswick.

Lamrock said he also wants to review the definition for minor injuries to ensure anyone with a more serious condition isn't put in the wrong category.

New Brunswick's Conservative justice critic Jody Carr is demanding a review to avoid any knee-jerk reaction that could affect rates and coverage.

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### News in brief

**ARREST** A 20-year-old Amherst man arrested after a bomb threat at Amherst Regional High School Tuesday will appear in provincial court May 31 on three charges. The unidentified man is charged with committing mischief in interfering with the lawful use and enjoyment of property, conveying a false message

with intent to alarm, and placing a false 911 call under the provincial statutes. The man was arrested after the suspect allegedly called 911 to report there were bombs at the school. School staff conducted a search and nothing was found. There was no disruption to school activities. **AMHERST DAILY NEWS**



**Drunk man arrested in P.E.I.**

A 30-year-old man was arrested at the Charlottetown Airport for being highly intoxicated and making threats to harm himself, police say. **CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN**

local 5

# Playful and dirty

Live Art Dance's new season offers variety

JON TATTRIE  
for Metro Halifax

**Live Art Dance unveiled a season that moves from pretty and playful to deep and dirty in its exploration of opposites, artistic director Paul Caskey said Thursday.**

The 2010-11 season features three world premieres and potent works from across Canada and China.

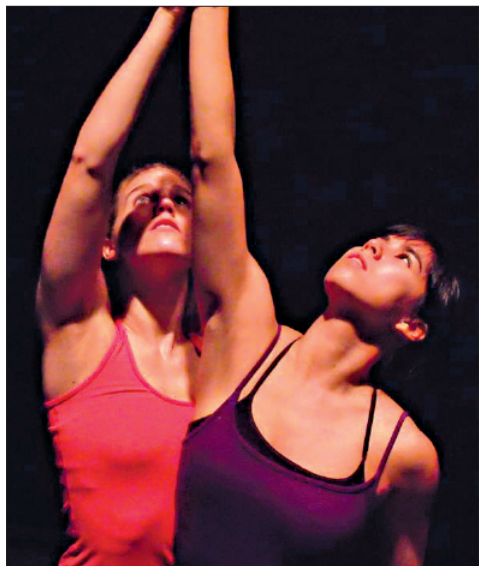
Paul-Andre Fortier's Cabane is a wandering piece about shelter, how we use space and what we put into it. It's been performed in parking garages, train stations and ballrooms and Caskey is scouting Halifax for unexpected stages. He's got his eye on the Armoury, if he can convince the military to let a dance troupe in among the tanks.

"The nature of the work is to question our interaction with shelter," Caskey said. "It's a hot topic."

Montreal Danse will be back in Halifax with Troglodyte Plastique, complete with masks found in a Dartmouth Value Village. Vancouver's Wen Wei Wang returned to China for the first time in 20 years to create Under the Skin, which contrasts freedom in Canada with the emerging liberty in China.

Thursday's season launch featured a sultry short from SINS (Sometimes in Nova Scotia) dancers Susanne Chui and Jacinte Armstrong. The troupe is bringing in reinforcements to take its series on the seven deadly sins to Xs ("excess") with Vancouver-based choreographer Daelik.

Live Art usually only



Jacinte Armstrong, left, and Susanne Chui from SINS perform at Thursday's launch of Live Art's 2010-11 season.

## 2010-11 Lineup

- La ou je vis by Le Carre des Lombes, Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, Sir James Dunn Theatre.
- Xs by SINS, Oct. 7 to 9, Sir James Dunn Theatre.
- 24 Preludes by Chopin and The Rite of Spring by Company Marie Chouinard, Nov. 17, Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.
- Troglodyte Plastique by Montreal Danse, Jan. 20 to 22, Sir James Dunn Theatre.
- Cabane by Paul-Andre Fortier at various locations, Feb. 17 to 19.
- Salt Truck Follies, Live Art annual fundraiser, March 5.
- Under the Skin by Wen Wei Dance with Beijing Modern Dance Company, March 19, Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.
- Audible by 605 Collective, May 5 to 7, Sir James Dunn Theatre.

takes finished pieces, but Xs will be created at the Ross Creek Centre for Arts in the weeks leading up to its October run.

"Daelik has a multi-disciplinary background in theatre and dance," Armstrong said. "He does contemporary dance rooted improvisation and contact improvisation."

They also needed an "actor-mover," so SINS turned to Cory Bowles. The Halifax artist dances with Verve Mwendo and played Cory on the Trailer Park Boys.

Tickets and subscriptions are available at 420-0003, liveart@eastlink.ca or via www.liveartproductions.ca.

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## 6 local

**Gas prices in Halifax expected to rise up to three cents**  
Gasoline prices in Halifax were predicted to rise between two and three cents a litre when the regulated price is set Friday at 12:01 a.m. The price for regular self-serve was selling for about \$1.05 on Thursday. **METRO HALIFAX**

# Pulling for Parker Street

JON TATTRIE  
for Metro Halifax



**"It's absolutely a spectator sport. We want people to come and cheer on the event."**

Thomas Gouthro, Parker Street

**Good Samaritans will be hauling fire trucks in Dartmouth on Sunday morning.**

The second annual Pull for Parker Street aims to raise \$20,000 for the charity that provides food, furniture and education for those in need.

Spokesman Thomas Gouthro said Thursday they've got 17 teams of

seven people (including at least one woman) lined up to tug the 40,000-pound fire trucks down a 120-foot track in a timed race.

He's hoping to get three more teams raising \$1,000 each. Gouthro said he realizes it's likely too late for individuals to raise the money, so he's asking cor-

porations to pitch in and sponsor workplace teams.

"It's an absolute spectator sport. We want people to come and cheer on the event," he said, noting there will be a barbecue, a bungee jumping/climbing wall and a games console.

Monetary donations or non-perishable food items

will be accepted at the event.

There will also be an antique fire truck on display and the Union Fire Club Pipe and Drum marching band will kick things off at 10:45 a.m. at Dartmouth Crossing.

All money raised will go to Parker Street, which Gouthro says has been hit by the recession.

"We haven't had anything coming in since Christmas," Gouthro said. "It's been a struggle."

## Accused in death of Inverness senior change pleas to guilty

**DEATH** Two people due to go to trial next week on manslaughter charges in the death of an Inverness senior two years ago have changed their pleas to guilty.

Brandy Johnena Timmons, 20, of Inverness, and Kyle Travis Timmons, 20, of Port Hawkesbury, were to jointly stand trial in Nova Scotia Supreme Court in Port Hawkesbury for two weeks beginning Monday.

They entered the new pleas during a Supreme

Court appearance earlier this week, and break and enter charges against them were withdrawn, Crown attorney Gerald MacDonald said. They are due to be sentenced

Aug. 17. They remain free on their bail conditions.

They were among seven people charged in the

death of Ivan Rorison, 70, of Inverness, which occurred in June 2008 after a home invasion and altercation. Police got a description of the suspects and arrested a number of young people a couple of hours later in Inverness.

Rorison refused medical attention after the incident but died in hospital the following day. He died as a result of internal bleeding caused by being struck in the abdomen.

CAPE BRETON POST

## Province unveils tougher laws for fur breeders

**REGULATION** Nova Scotia is placing more responsibility on fur breeders to ensure they take into account the effect of their operations on their neighbours and the environment.

Legislative changes introduced today will require that they obtain a site approval permit before getting their operating licence.

Inspectors will also be checking to see if ranchers have management plans in place to cover waste, water management and disease prevention.

Agriculture Minister John MacDonell says his bill puts in place measures to ensure appropriate management and development for years to come.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### News in brief

**THEFT** Enfield RCMP have been dealing with a rash of daytime break and enters. Police say homes in the East Gore, Upper and Nine Mile River areas have

been broken into over the past week. In one case, police say a woman from Nine Mile River arrived home on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. to see a man in a

white older model car with rust and a red vinyl roof stuffing her TV into his vehicle. The suspect fled in his vehicle when he saw the homeowner. **METRO HALIFAX**

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## Quebec doctors and medical students fight plan to charge patients for visits

Quebec doctors and medical students have formed a coalition to oppose the provincial government's proposal to charge a \$25 fee for doctor visits. The coalition, which says it represents about 75 per cent of the province's doctors, worries the fee will make health care less accessible — especially for the chronically ill and the poor. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Canada



## Take a bow, Carney

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney has been named the 21st most influential person by Time magazine. "Central bankers aren't often young, good-looking and charming, but Mark Carney is all three — not to mention wicked smart," the magazine says in its latest edition. Carney has been widely credited for helping Canada weather the recession.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Two murder charges – and now lingerie?

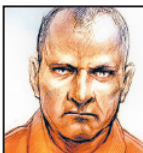
**A former Canadian military commander facing murder and sexual assault charges was hit with 82 new break-and-enter charges Thursday — with some of the burglaries reportedly involving lingerie.**

Col. Russell Williams led one of the country's top airbases — CFB Trenton — before he was charged in February with first-degree murder in the deaths of two women and the sexual assaults of two others.

The commander's arrest shook the military.

On Thursday, Williams just hours before Williams made a brief court appearance, provincial police said a review of unsolved crimes in eastern Ontario had resulted in the 82 new charges.

Forty-six of those involve break-ins in Tweed, the eastern Ontario community where Williams lived after taking command of the



Col. Russell  
Williams

sprawling airbase in July 2009.

Another 34 fall under the jurisdiction of Ottawa, where Williams shared a house with his wife.

The remaining two charges relate to suspected break-ins in Belleville, Ont., also near the base.

Williams, 47, was arrested and charged in February with two counts of first-de-



Word of the new charges rattled communities barely past the initial shock of the murder charges.

Terra Dafoe, a friend of Lloyd's, said she had expected there would be more charges but never expected so many.

"Eighty-two is just absolutely ridiculous," she said from Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Miles Davis exhibit **Jazz icon's son pays homage to his dad**

Erin Davis, son of the late Miles Davis, poses in front of a photograph of his father at the preview of the We Want Miles: Miles Davis vs. Jazz exhibit at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts on Thursday. The exhibit, which runs until Aug. 29, is a multimedia retrospective that traces the life and career of the jazz musical icon.

## Jaffer move irked feds

**ALLEGATIONS** Federal bureaucrats bristled at being pressured by Tory staff to meet with Rahim Jaffer and quickly review one of his business proposals, documents show.

The exchanges of emails by civil servants were

among documents tabled with a Commons committee.

MPs are scrutinizing alleged illegal lobbying by Jaffer, husband of turfed cabinet minister Helena Guergis. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



**Tories defend appointment of judge who once represented the Hells Angels.**

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## Tories to tone down cheques

**OTTAWA** The federal government says it's ready to bar the use of ceremonial cheques decked out in partisan slogans or colours. Treasury Board president Stockwell Day said he is working on changes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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Canada Border Services Agency has quietly introduced computerized customs clearances at Vancouver International Airport. It's called automated border clearance; travellers returning to Canada just swipe their passports or identification, feed in their customs declarations and go through. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## News in brief

**CRASH** Provincial police say charges are pending against a driver who tried to reverse his way onto Canada's busiest highway — Highway 401 — during rush hour, causing a multi-vehicle crash in southern Ontario. Police say the crash

happened when a driver was reversing onto the highway after taking the wrong off-ramp. **BRIDGE** The federal government is offering to lend Michigan more than half a billion dollars to speed up construction of a second

bridge in the busiest trade corridor between Canada and the U.S. In a letter to Michigan's governor, Transport Minister John Baird said environmental assessments have cleared necessary hurdles in both countries. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# On the other hand

Researchers isolate gene for rare mirror movement disorder

**When Andree Marion moves one hand, the other automatically mimics the motion. If she wriggles the toes on one foot, the toes on her other move too. It's not a nervous habit, at least not in the classical sense, although it does relate to her nervous system.**

Marion has a condition called congenital mirror movements, an extremely rare disorder in which the brain sends mixed signals to the muscles.

And now, she and other family members also afflicted with these completely involuntary actions know why.

Montreal researchers have discovered the gene that causes the disorder, and they believe it will help them understand more about how the brain develops and how it works.

"At first it was kind of surprising because I had that all my life, so I didn't think it was such a big deal," she said Thursday from St-Sauveur, Que.

"Maybe because when I'm talking I'm the kind of person who talks with two hands, so maybe that's why nobody noticed."



Andree Marion, who has a rare condition which causes one hand to mimic the actions of the other, is seen in her home Thursday in Saint Sauveur, Que. Researchers have discovered a gene that could be the cause and hopefully will provide a cure.

"The person who really noticed and found it was surprising was my husband, when he first saw me brushing my teeth in the morning and the other hand was doing the same movement. He said, 'What? That's weird.'"

It turns out that 11 out of almost two dozen members in her extended family living in and around

Montreal carry the mutated gene, which is located on chromosome 18.

"My mother doesn't have it. My son has it. My daughter doesn't have it," said Marion, explaining that her 19-year-old son Xavier is not as affected as she is, but "his fingers are still sort of moving when he's doing things."

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Crown withdraws murder charges on Phillion

**COURT** A man who spent nearly 32 years behind bars for a murder he says he did not commit wept in court Thursday as the Crown officially withdrew the charges against him and the judge issued an apology.

Romeo Phillion was convicted of second-degree murder based on a confession he gave police decades ago in connection with the death of firefighter Leopold Roy.

After years of proclaiming his innocence, the Crown officially withdrew the charges on Phillion's 71st birthday.

"It's a special day for me

— my birthday. It's the best birthday I ever got," Phillion told CTV Ottawa on Thursday.



Romeo Phillion

will be positive from now on."

But the legal battle is not over for Phillion. He will continue to fight for a new trial to officially clear his name.

"I got many more years to go. I'm not going to die to-

morrow. I'm going to stick around. My lawyers will take care of the rest," he said. Phillion's murder conviction was struck down by Ontario's top court in March 2009. The judge presiding over the case ruled the prosecution withheld a key piece of evidence in Phillion's 1972 murder trial.

Appeal Court Justice Mike Moldaver found the Crown never told the defence that at one point investigators concluded Phillion was 200 kilometres away from the crime scene in Trenton, Ont., at the time of the murder.

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# Harper digs in over Afghan documents

**Prime Minister Stephen Harper hinted Wednesday he was prepared to go to an election if necessary to prevent the release of all uncensored Afghan prisoner documents to the House of Commons as directed by Speaker Peter Milliken.**

"It's hard to take it really any other way," NDP Leader Jack Layton told reporters after listening to what he took to be an implied threat from Harper during question period.

Harper's comments added to signals from the Conservative government that it plans to dig in its heels on the release of Afghan prisoner documents.

Harper told MPs the survival of his minority government always depends on the "confidence" of the House, suggesting if the opposition parties don't like what they see they can always have a vote of non-confidence and go to the voters.

Yet shortly after that, a Harper spokesman announced that preliminary negotiations with the opposition parties will begin

## Iggy's take

• Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff told reporters that to ignore Milliken's ruling would be a mistake. "This is a big deal. A government that doesn't listen to the clear word of the Speaker is making a cardinal error. It's obvious to me that a solution is within the grasp of people of good faith, so let's find it," he said after the party's weekly caucus meeting.

Thursday, led by Justice Minister Rob Nicholson and Tory House Leader Jay Hill.

Dimitri Soudas said the move demonstrates the government's "spirit of openness" toward finding a compromise.

The government has seized on the part of Milliken's ruling in which he acknowledges a government has the right to prevent documents being made public if they threaten national security. But Milliken emphasized that Parliament's right to see them is supreme just the same. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Teen inmate's files ordered released 3 years after suicide

**LAW** A federal judge has ordered Canada's prison service to disclose the personal files of a teen inmate who killed herself.

Federal Court Justice Michael Kelen says the Correctional Service of Canada broke the law by failing to release Ashley Smith's records while she was still alive.

Smith was 19 when she choked herself to death with a strip of cloth at the Grand Valley Institution in Kitchener, Ont., in October 2007.

Earlier that year she had requested access to her personal prison records and

authorized their release to the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies.

Smith had alleged poor treatment by the Correctional Service, including assault, lack of psychiatric care and frequent transfers between prisons and treatment facilities across Canada.

Prison ombudsman Howard Sapers, the correctional investigator, found she was moved 17 times in just 11 months.

He harshly criticized the prison service for failing to give Smith proper care and protection.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## News in brief

**HELP?** A new poll suggests most Canadians would take matters into their own hands rather than hire someone to help with minor repairs or maintenance around the house. The Canadian Press-Harris Decima survey found that 61 per cent of respondents would do their own fix-it projects, while 24 per cent said

they would hire someone. Seniors were more inclined to seek help with home repairs and maintenance. The survey found 43 per cent of those aged 65 and up would hire someone else, compared to 18 per cent of adults aged 35 to 54. Higher income earners were also more keen to get someone else to help. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Two Pickering, Ont., 17-year-olds face robbery charges after a grocery store was robbed of ice cream at knifepoint. Police say employees noticed two teens putting ice cream products in a backpack. One teen produced a knife. Police arrested the teens, recovered the ice cream and seized a knife and a pellet gun. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# If it's April, it must be ... snow

## Southern Alberta turns white

**A greening southern Alberta turned white again Thursday with a wet and windy snowstorm that closed schools, shut down major highways and mottled the flight board at the Calgary airport with red.**

The dump of slushy, heavy snow began Wednesday and crippled travel as temperatures hovered

around the freezing mark and winds gusted to 90 kilometres an hour.

Hills and highway ramps were particularly dicey. A highway into the Cypress Hills in the southeast corner of the province was reduced to one lane because of a snowslide.

At one point, there were so many crashes on the main route between Calgary and Edmonton that it was closed so that emergency crews could do their work.

Power was out in many communities south of Red Deer because of high winds. As soon as crews managed to solve one problem, another would appear.

In Calgary, utility provider Enmax said as many as 47,000 customers were without electricity at some point during the day.

At the Calgary airport, many flights were cancelled and many more weren't running on time.

Airport spokesperson Jody Moseley said flights were getting in and out and most of the cancellations were due to scheduling decisions made preemptively by the airlines.

"You know Calgary gets snow 12 months out of the year and (the airport) has the best equipment and some of the best staff to keep the runways clear."

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Tavin Morrison shovels a pathway to a town storm sewer in Raymond, Alta., during a spring snow storm Thursday. Classes were cancelled and the town was left without electrical power.

## Moms get safe haven to abandon their babies

**B.C.** A Vancouver hospital is offering safe haven for mothers who want to anonymously give up their infants.

St. Paul's Hospital, in the city's downtown core, will kick off its Angel's Cradle program next week.

Providence Health Care, which runs the hospital, said infant abandonment is a fact of life and this initiative provides options for troubled mothers.

Starting May 3, moms will be able to leave their infant inside a bassinet in the emergency department.

The cradle is equipped with a sensory alarm that lets hospital staff know 30 seconds after a baby is placed inside.

Police have agreed not to seek charges or pursue the mother.

If the mother wants her baby back, she can contact officials and arrange a meeting with social workers. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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## Compensation for Kuwait victims

A United Nations panel has approved \$590 million US in compensation payments for victims of Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The UN Compensation Commission says the money will go to five companies and four government or international bodies. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

13

## World



## Taliban boss may be alive after all

Pakistan and U.S. intelligence wrongly reported the death of the head of the Pakistani Taliban in a CIA drone strike and the brash, ruthless commander is now believed to be alive, Pakistani spies said Thursday in an apparent propaganda coup for the insurgents. The reports that Hakimullah Mehsud, left, survived the January missile attack in an area close to the Afghan border will raise questions about the quality of the intelligence being gathered in the region.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Oil reaches Gulf coast

Spill much worse than originally thought

An oil spill that threatened to eclipse even the Exxon Valdez disaster spread out of control and started washing ashore along the U.S. Gulf Coast Thursday night as fishermen rushed to scoop up shrimp and crews spread floating barriers around marshes.

The spill was bigger than imagined — five times more than first estimated — and closer. Fingers of oily sheen were reaching the Mississippi River delta, lapping the Louisiana shoreline in long, thin lines.

"It is of grave concern," David Kennedy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, told The Associated Press. "I am frightened. This is a very, very big thing. And the ef-

## Disaster could affect drilling plans

• The Obama administration says the massive oil spill in the Gulf Coast will be considered in a planned expansion of offshore drilling and will become part of the debate on climate change in the U.S.

Congress. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Thursday that the cause of the oil rig explosion, still not determined, could affect what areas would open for future drilling.

forts that are going to be required to do anything about it, especially if it continues on, are just mind-boggling." The oil slick could become the nation's worst environmental disaster in decades, threatening hundreds of species of fish, birds and other wildlife along the Gulf Coast, one of the world's richest seafood grounds, teeming with shrimp, oysters and other marine life. Oil was thickening in wa-

ters south and east of the Mississippi delta about five miles offshore. The leak from the ocean floor proved to be far bigger than initially reported, contributing to a growing sense among many in Louisiana that the government failed them again, as it did during Hurricane Katrina. President Barack Obama dispatched cabinet officials to deal with the crisis.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Lebanon Looks of horror



Lebanese women react at the hanging body of Egyptian Mohammed Msallem after he was stabbed to death Thursday. Officials say angry villagers stabbed the man to death and hung his body on a pole over his alleged murder of four people from the same family.

## Another knife attack in China

**RAMPAGE** A knife-wielding man slashed 28 children, two teachers and a security guard Thursday in the second such school attack in China in two days. The attack left five students hospitalized in critical condition in the eastern city of Taixing, said Zhu Guiming, a local official. The official Xinhua News Agency identified the attacker as Xu Yuyuan, a 47-year-old unemployed man using a 20-centimetre knife.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## News in brief

**KIEV** Ukrainian prosecutors said Thursday they are considering filing charges against parliament members who hurled eggs and set off smoke bombs in the chamber as lawmakers ratified a controversial

agreement with Russia. The parliament speaker was bombarded with eggs and deputies brawled Tuesday before the vote.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Argentines hold mock "people's trial" of reporters after president blasts media critics.

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14world

Madagascar factions talking

Madagascar's rival political factions are discussing a deal that calls for new elections on the Indian Ocean island nation. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

# Belgium approves public burqa ban

**Belgium's lower house of parliament on Thursday banned burqa-type Islamic dress in public, but the measure faces a challenge in the Senate which will delay early enactment of the law.**

Christian Democrats and Liberals in the Senate questioned the phrasing of the law, which holds no one can appear in public "with the face fully or partly covered so as to render them no longer recognizable."

Following the fall of Premier Yves Leterme's government April 22, Belgium faces early elections that may delay passage of the Belgian anti-burqa ban —

## Law takes national aim

• Last year, the city of Brussels fined only 29 women — down from 33 in 2008 — for wearing a burqa-type dress. In Bel-

gium, local rules ban the burqa, but enforcement is spotty and the new law would outlaw it on a national level.

Europe's first — by several months.

Both houses of parliament must approve the bill. Approval in the lower house was almost unanimous.

Belgium struggles with anxieties that visible signs of Islam erode national identity and that women in traditional conservative Islamic dress signal a refusal to assimilate.

The law's author, Daniel Bacquelaine, a Liberal, said a burqa is incompatible with basic security as everyone in public must be recognizable and clashes with the principles of an emancipated society that respects the rights of all.

Burqa-type Islamic dress that fully covers a woman and most or all of her face is not common in Europe.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## News in brief

**GEORGIA** The first U.S. women allowed to serve aboard submarines will be reporting for duty by 2012, the Navy said Thursday as the military ordered an end to one of its few remaining gender barriers. The cramped quarters and

scant privacy aboard submarines, combined with long tours of up to 90 days at sea, kept them off-limits to female sailors. Women are currently allowed to serve on subs in a few countries, including Canada, Australia, Norway,

Spain and Sweden.

**MEXICO** Two native women freed by Mexico's Supreme Court for lack of evidence after spending almost four years in prison on kidnapping charges demanded a public apology Thursday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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**Judge pleads guilty to racketeering charge**

A former Pennsylvania judge accused of taking millions of dollars in kickbacks has agreed to plead guilty to a federal racketeering charge. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

world 15

# Brown goes for broke

**British Prime Minister Gordon Brown went for broke in the final TV debate on the economy Thursday, drawing on his vast treasury experience and banking on a political miracle after an embarrassing campaign gaffe.**

Slumped in the polls, Brown wasted no time in his last-ditch performance before the May 6 election — using his opening remarks to neutralize Wednesday's gaffe with a smart quip.

Brown had forgotten to turn off his microphone Wednesday after a Labour voter asked about an influx of Eastern European immigrants. After the conversation ended, Brown was heard muttering "bigoted woman" and blaming aides.



Prime Minister Gordon Brown, right, Conservative leader David Cameron, left, and Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg shake hands Thursday after their third televised debate.

"There is a lot to this job, and as you saw yesterday — I don't get all of it right," Brown said, referring to his

gaffe. "But I do know how to run the economy in good times and in bad."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Critics challenge Arizona law

**UPROAR** An Arizona police officer and a Latino group filed the first legal challenges of Arizona's sweeping new law cracking down on illegal immigration Thursday.

Signed last week by Re-

publican Gov. Jan Brewer, the law requires local and state law enforcement to question people about their immigration status if there's reason to suspect they're in the country illegally.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## News in brief

**COLLAPSE** One miner was dead and rescuers were unable to contact another who was missing after a roof collapsed in a large underground coal mine in Kentucky that had a history of safety violations, officials said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Attention motorists, on or about Monday, May 3rd, South Park St. from Fenwick St. to The VG Hospital Parking Lot entrance on South Park St. will be reduced to north (inbound) traffic only.

Generally the work will involve paving, sidewalks/curbs replacement and landscape restoration.

The duration of construction is approximately 10 days.

There is no south bound (outbound) traffic on South Park St. in the work zone. One lane, one way north (inbound) traffic on the east side of South Park Street from Fenwick Street to VG Parking Lot entrance will be maintained.

Traffic heading east on South Street will be detoured at Tower Road. Traffic Heading west down South Street will be able to turn right (north) only on South Park Street.

There will be no on-street parking on South Park Street from Fenwick Street to The VG Parking Lot Entrance.

**Please note, all shops and services adjacent to the work zone will remain open during the construction period.**

Municipal service disruptions, if required, will be kept to a minimum duration and affected residents and businesses will be notified in advance.

Experienced traffic control personnel will be on-site to ensure smooth traffic flow. On site personnel will also maintain communication with local residents and businesses to help minimize disruption.

The hours of work will be Monday to Friday 7:00am to 6:00pm, with weekends as required.

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## Comment

# More diverse voices the better

## UrbanCompass



Stephen Kimber

So, Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil has his knickers in a righteous knot because Darrell Dexter's new 19-member economic advisory council includes a few of the premier's union "buddies."

I'm delighted this new volunteer group — set up to "provide advice to gov-

ernment on strategies and actions to grow the economy and act as a sounding board on government initiatives for labour force development and fiscal management as directed by the premier" — includes such an eclectic mix of advice-givers.

True, the advisory council does include more worker representation than your average Tory or Liberal appointed group. What's wrong with that? There are also plenty of articulate voices of business, including organizations (Halifax Chamber of Commerce), entrepreneurs (Joe Shannon, Jim Spatz,

Michael Donovan) and corporate bosses (Robert Patzelt of Scotia Investments Ltd.).

More significantly, this advisory board cuts a wide swath through Nova Scotia. There are representatives from the universities, community colleges, tourism, environmentalists, volunteers, women's advocacy and even some young Halifax-based residents "who are inspired to make their city a better place to live, work and play."

This is exactly the kind of group that should be sitting around a table together debating government

economic initiatives and arguing over the future. Even better — faint hope — if they held their discussions in public.

As for McNeil's specific complaints — that Dexter shouldn't have appointed Building Trades Council president Cordell Cole because he was involved in last year's election campaign fundraising scheme that turned out to be against the law, and should have disqualified two other union reps because they made "bullying" comments about small business — let's take them one at a time.

Cole, like most ap-

pointees, is there because he represents an important economic interest group, in this case 14 unions and 12,000 skilled building tradespeople. They need to be at this table.

And public workers' union reps fired broadsides at business groups that are advocating deep cuts in the number of government employees ... uh, Stephen, what do you expect? On the flip side, we have the Chamber of Commerce — another group now represented in the advisory council — that attacked the government for raising the HST.

That's just the way it all works.

While the Liberals — and the media — have their knickers knotted over this faux flap, a more important issue gets little attention. The NDP continues to refuse to provide the legislature's all-party human resources committee with useful, vettable information on applicants for the province's more than 130 agencies, boards and commission. Now there's a Heather Foley Melvin scandal waiting to happen.

Stephen Kimber, the Rogers Communications Chair in Journalism at the University of Kings College, is the author of eight books.

## Worth mentioning

# Name change can influence your career

ELISABETH BRAW  
Metro World News



Attention brides: Trading the Miss for Mrs. may be romantic, but think twice before taking your husband's name. It will harm your career, warn researchers.

According to a study, published in the current issue of Basic and Applied Social Psychology, women using their husbands' last name are also judged as more dependent and less ambitious than women who keep their maiden name — but are also seen as more kind and caring.

More alarmingly, members of the Mrs. League earn approximately \$1,500 less per month.

"But it's very difficult to explain the income gap," said researcher Dr. Marret Noordewier. "It can also be that women who take their husbands' names earn less money because they're different anyway."

What about Angela Krassner? Though divorced and remarried, the German

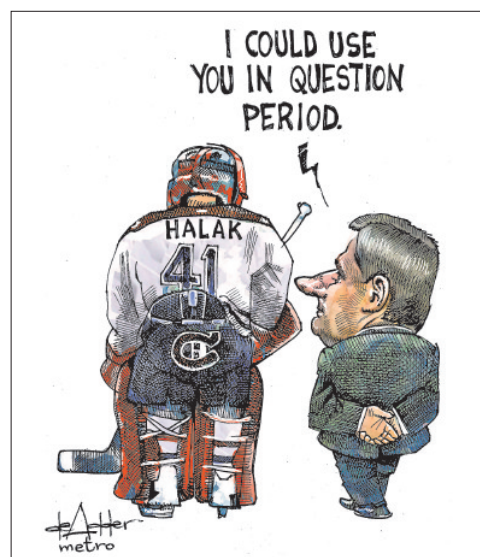
chancellor uses her first husband's name, Merkel. And after a brief post-wedding attempt at remaining Hillary Rodham, Hillary is now known as Mrs. Clinton.

Women with less stature using their husbands' last name don't fare as well. According to psychologists at the Tilburg Institute for Behavioral Economics Research in the Netherlands, women who take their husband's name, or use hyphenated

names, are seen as less intelligent and less competent than women who keep their maiden name.

"Changing your name isn't always negative," Noordewier said. "But if people have limited information about you, this is how they'll judge you."

Armed with these findings, Noordewier's team surveyed Dutch university students' attitudes to name change and received a surprise: 81 per of male students wanted their future wives to change their names — and 83 per cent of female students planned to do so.



Tell us your views by email to [halifaxletters@metronews.ca](mailto:halifaxletters@metronews.ca) or comment on [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca) or on Twitter @metrohalifax

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**N.S. fur breeders face tighter regulations**

Nova Scotia is placing more responsibility on fur breeders to ensure they take into account the effect of their operations on their neighbours and the environment. Inspectors will be checking to see if ranchers have management plans in place to cover waste, water management and disease prevention. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

**17**

# Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Women continue to make business gains

**Women are making greater inroads in non-traditional occupations and fields of study, says a new study released Thursday by Statistics Canada on women in the workforce.**

In the 10-year period from 1996 to 2006, women went from a minority to a majority in a number of fields, including human resources, as administrative

services managers, machine operators in textiles, as managers in art, culture, recreation and sport, and in insurance and real estate sales.

Gains were also made in some occupations considered non-traditional for women. For instance, the category for police and firefighters was 15 per cent female in 2006,

up from 10 per cent a decade earlier, the report said.

"Certainly one of the major drivers, I think, has been the rising educational attainment of women, and changes in their fields of study at the university level," Kathryn McMullen, co-author of the study, said from Ottawa.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

### Energy TransAlta AGM



Steve Snyder, right, president and CEO of TransAlta, chats with company chair Donna Soble Kaufman during the company's annual general meeting in Calgary Thursday.

## Too early to raise interest rates: CIBC

**ECONOMY** CIBC is casting doubts on the Bank of Canada's analysis of the country's economic performance, suggesting it may be overestimating the potential threat from inflation and is too ready to begin raising interest rates — particularly since the dollar is high and government spending is on the decline.

Last week, central bank governor Mark Carney sent a strong signal to the markets that he is preparing to raise interest rates, possibly as early as the next announcement date of June 1.

In a separate report, CIBC economist Peter Buchanan says that Canada's corporate sector may be in a strong position to withstand higher rates but remains at risk from a stronger dollar.

Buchanan says Corporate Canada is benefiting from low debt levels, which put the country's companies in better shape to withstand higher interest rates than Canadian households.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Greek crisis could slow recovery

**CARNEY** The Greek crisis has the potential to derail the global recovery and hurt Canada's economy, Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney says.

The central bank governor called the sovereign debt crisis in Greece and other southern European countries a "serious situation" for both the world and Canada. Carney says Greece's problems could

spill over and cause a slowdown in the global economy. In Canada, that would result in higher interest rates. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



*It was a good news, bad news kind of day for Ford, as profits rise but challenges remain.*

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The six-week Nova Scotia Varsity Football League season opens Friday at Huskies Stadium. The Metro Mustangs begin their quest for a fourth straight title against the Halifax Hornets at 6 p.m. while the Dartmouth Knights clash with the Valley-Windsor WarDogs at 8:30 p.m. **METRO HALIFAX**

# Sports



## Levingston to lace them up

Halifax Rainmen owner Andre Levingston will be among those on the floor for the Premier Basketball League's "legends game" on Saturday at 5 p.m. at the Metro Centre as part of all-star weekend. Levingston is a former NCAA Division II guard with the Chico State Wildcats.

METRO HALIFAX

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

# Secret slam dunker set to unveil his skills

Halifax's Ervin seldom dunks in games, but will in contest

MATTHEW WUEST  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Ask around, and you'll be hard pressed to find anyone who can recall Gary Ervin throwing down so much as a single dunk this year at the Metro Centre.

But when the six-foot Halifax Rainmen point guard's name showed up on the list of entries for Saturday's slam-dunk contest as part of Premier Basketball League all-star weekend at the Metro Centre, a little more digging revealed some surprises.

Apparently, Ervin has a hidden Nate Robinson flair.

"The person you've got to worry about is Gary Ervin," said six-foot-eight power forward Eric Crookshank, whose soaring, two-handed jams dominated the Rainmen's highlight reel this year.

"He's a leaper ... I've seen him in warmups and practice, and he can do everything I can do. He's awesome."

Ervin, Crookshank and wildcard entry Jevohn Shepherd, a six-foot-five small forward, are the Rainmen's entries in the dunk contest, which also features four competitors from other teams.

Ervin said he'll use Rain-



Halifax's Gary Ervin will be taking part in the slam dunk contest.

men all-star guard Eric Gilchrese for one dunk and consider attempting a two-handed windmill and a 360.

"I definitely am a favourite," Ervin proclaimed boldly. "Y'all just don't know it yet. Y'all just haven't seen me leap yet."

But Ervin was quick to

admit his pick to win is Shepherd, who powered his way to some of the most sensational dunks in Rainmen history.

No matter who emerges as champion, the contestants expect fans to be entertained.

"Everyone loves dunks," Crookshank said. "When you go talk to kids at

## Weekend events

Schedule for Premier Basketball League all-star weekend at the Metro Centre.

### SATURDAY

- Legends game, 5 p.m.
- Three-point challenge, 6:30 p.m.
- Slam-dunk contest, 7:15 p.m.

### SUNDAY

- All-star game, 3 p.m.

schools, they always say, 'Can you dunk?' It's a great thing. I think it's going to be awesome."

Crookshank, Ervin, Gilchrese and small forward Desmond Ferguson will play for Team East in Sunday's all-star game, while Gilchrese and Ferguson will be part of Saturday's three-point contest.

The Rainmen's frontmen were disappointed with their semifinal playoff demise and want to make up for it this weekend.

"We'll win the all-star game, Shepherd will win the dunk contest, Dez will win the three-point contest and someone from our team will win MVP — it will be a sweep," Ervin predicted.

"The playoffs are still a sour taste, but as long as you leave on the right note, that's the biggest thing."

## Battle of New Brunswick gives Q final a new twist

MATTHEW WUEST  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

It's a battle of Cats and Dogs that's almost too good to be true.

The first-ever all-New Brunswick, all-Maritime final in QMJHL history begins on Friday, with the first-place Saint John Sea Dogs hosting the third-place Moncton Wildcats in what could be a memorable showdown for the President's Cup.

"These are two high-calibre teams that are an hour and 15 minutes apart," said Sea Dogs head coach Gerard Gallant. "It's perfect. They're going to be full houses and there's going to be a lot of good hockey played."

"It should be a great series."

The hype around the series has been building for weeks since it became apparent the two stacked teams — with 53 and 48 wins, respectively — were on a collision course.

Gallant said one of the

biggest keys will be keeping a team full of teenagers focused on the task at hand.

"You talk to the kids and you say, 'There's going to be a lot going on outside the rink with the fans and your families ... But you've got to be ready to play when the puck is dropped,'" he explained. "The team that comes out on top is (going to be) the one that's focused, prepared and ready to play."

The Sea Dogs feature four Halifax-area products: Forwards Stephen MacAulay (Cole Harbour), Steven Anthony (Halifax), and Michael Kirkpatrick (former Dartmouth Subway) and defenceman Christian Morin (Dartmouth).

Dartmouth's Danny Flynn is the Wildcats' head coach and general manager, while forward Andrew Roski of Halifax appeared in three playoff games, but now is out for the season after needing shoulder surgery.

Wildcats captain Scott Brannon hails from Churchville, Pictou Co.

## Expectations high for all-star event

**PBL** When the Metro Centre hosted American Basketball Association all-star weekend in 2007, an estimated 5,500 fans turned out for the two-day event.

That was before the Halifax Rainmen had ever played a game in the facility.

Three years later, the Rainmen have three professional seasons under their belt, improving their average attendance from 1,810

to 3,292, and are no longer in the ABA.

Expectations are understandably high as they prepare to host the Premier Basketball League's inaugural all-star weekend on Saturday and Sunday at the Metro Centre.

"It's a great weekend to have it with nothing else going on," said Rainmen all-star Eric Crookshank. "I think it's going to be a great turnout."

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**Smyth to play in IIHF Championship**

Captain Canada is heading back to the IIHF World Hockey Championship. Ryan Smyth was one of four players added to the Canadian team by general manager Mark Messier on Thursday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

sports **19**

# Crosby rested, ready to go

In three months' time, Sidney Crosby has won an Olympic gold medal with an overtime goal and returned the Pittsburgh Penguins to an enviable position in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

A gifted player previously known as a playmaker first and a scorer second tied for his first NHL goal-scoring championship. He also is one of three finalists for the Hart Trophy, an award he's already won once.

What he hasn't done is take much time off. Until now.

When his Pittsburgh Penguins open their Eastern Conference semifinal series against surprising Montreal Friday night, Crosby will be coming off a six-day break. It's the most time off he's enjoyed since training camp began in September, or three months to the day since the Penguins won the Stanley Cup.

Considering he's played 38 games, counting the Olympics, during the past two months, it must seem like a month off.

Considering the Penguins will play their 300th game in three seasons in Game 4 against the Canadians, it's the kind of break Crosby may not see

## Hart finalists

• A trio of high-scoring forwards are this year's nominees for the NHL's most valuable player honours.

• Washington Capitals sniper Alex Ovechkin, Vancouver Canucks playmaker Henrik Sedin and Pittsburgh Penguins superstar Sidney Crosby will battle it out for the Hart Trophy after finishing in the top three in scoring this past season.

again until the playoffs end. So what did he do during his much-needed time off? He practised, of course.

"It was good. I don't think anybody was complaining about it," Crosby said Thursday. "It's great to get practice time, I really like to practice and work on skills and go over details. When you get to the playoffs, that's so important, the details of the game."

Practising for 60-plus minutes isn't the same as playing 100 minutes-plus game, as the Penguins did in losing Game 5 of their first-round series against Ottawa. The Penguins came back to win Game 6 and give Crosby some of the time off he's wanted since the demanding and fatiguing two-week Olympic tournament.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## NHL Sharks draw first blood



The Detroit Red Wings and San Jose Sharks face off in Game 1 of their series Thursday in San Jose. San Jose won 4-3.

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Kansas City at Tampa Bay

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2006 - Detroit (124) lost to Edmonton (95), in six games.

2000 - St. Louis (114) lost to San Jose (87), in seven games.  
1991 - Chicago (106) lost to Minnesota (68), in six games.

### NHL PLAYOFFS

#### THURSDAY'S RESULTS

San Jose 4 Detroit 3

#### FRIDAY'S GAMES

Montreal at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.

#### SATURDAY'S GAMES

Philadelphia at Boston, 12:30 p.m. (NBC)

Vancouver at Chicago, 8 p.m.

#### SUNDAY'S GAMES

Montreal at Pittsburgh, 2 p.m. (NBC)

Detroit at San Jose, 8 p.m.

### NBA PLAYOFFS

#### THURSDAY'S RESULTS

San Antonio 97 Dallas 87

#### FRIDAY'S GAMES

Atlanta at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 9:30 p.m.

Denver at Utah, 10 p.m.

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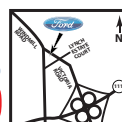
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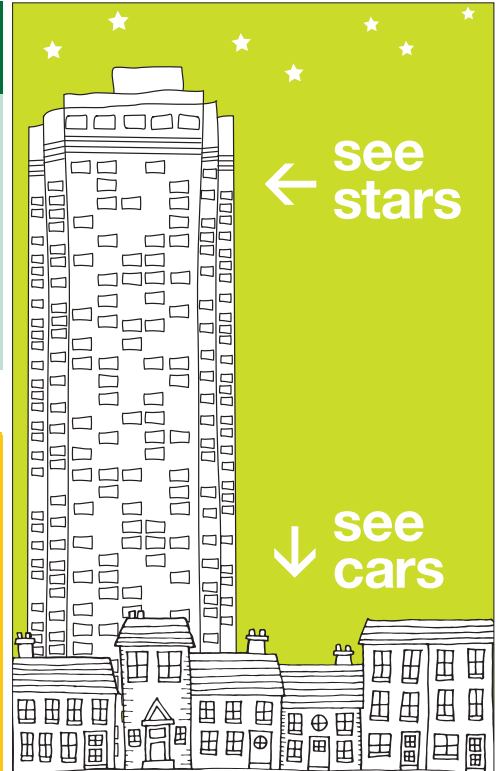
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21

# Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

## Movies

### Rock hard

Pg 22



Robert Downey Jr. straps in for another ride as Iron Man, a.k.a. Tony Stark, in the blockbuster sequel Iron Man 2.

## Movies

Pg 23



Nightmare on Elm Street gets a 21st Century remake.

## Music

Pg 26



Alan Cross searches in vain for Dubai's rock scene.

## Television

Pg 28



The Real Housewives of New Jersey have their claws out.

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## Movies

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🐾🐾🐾 A CLASSIC; 🐾🐾🐾 EXCELLENT; 🐾🐾 GOOD; 🐾 FAIR; 🐾 POOR

# Behind the Iron mask

## Downey Jr.'s career comeback continues with sequel

NED EHRBAR  
Metro World News

Thanks to the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland, which grounded flights around Europe, Robert Downey Jr. finds himself in California to promote Iron Man 2 instead of London, where the movie's junket was supposed to take place.

But the actor refuses to feel too inconvenienced.

"I love the idea of someone taking the volcano personally," he tells Metro. "I know that would be a very Hollywood actor ego thing to do. But I didn't. I'm too psychologically well, I'm afraid."

Psychologically well is a state the star has been enjoying lately, as his career resurgence that took off two years ago with the first Iron Man continues unabated.

His time on the outs with Hollywood, after a lengthy and well-publicized battle with addiction and multiple arrests, appears to be behind him, and as successful as he's been, Downey tries to keep things in perspective.

"I'm dressed up for a press junket about a superhero. It's a cosmic joke," he says. "I think it's funny. It's very lucrative — as funny as lucrative things get."

Still, as funny as Downey may find it, he takes his work seriously, turning in standout performances in everything he's headlined since his resurgence.

"I really know what I'm doing. I think I've demonstrated that," he says. And



Robert Downey Jr.'s dons the superhero suit again for Iron Man 2.

with two major franchises — Iron Man and Sherlock Holmes — under his care, Downey insists that size matters. "I can get excited about anything — this microphone, for example. If it's novel and feels good and becomes creatively sticky, I power through it," he says. "I just really need a big box to play in, or I'm not happy."

The latest Iron Man chapter gave Downey a chance to share that big box with

### Movie feature

another Hollywood comeback story in Mickey Rourke, who steps in as villain Whiplash. "He has a lot of power. He is a very emotive guy who's lived a lot of life." Another new face in the cast this time around is Scarlett Johansson, as Tony Stark's mysterious new assistant.

Though a love triangle between their characters and Gwyneth Paltrow's Pepper Potts may have seemed a natural choice, Downey insists it would've been a mistake.

### On the web

• For trailers, screen times and photos, visit [metronews.ca/movies](http://metronews.ca/movies)

"When we started working together, because it's new, people were all saying, 'You have so much chemistry,'" he says. "First of all, it's not age-appropriate. Secondly, Tony's love interest is Pepper. Third, she's not there for that, she's there to misdirect the story. She's more a family member you don't know yet."



Brendan Fraser stars in Furry Vengeance.

## Vengeance children's comedy done wrong

### Furry Vengeance

**Director:** Roger Kumble  
**Stars:** Brendan Fraser, Brooke Shields, Ken Jeong  
**Classification:** G  
**Rating:** 🐾

PHIL BROWN  
for Metro Canada

**REVIEW** Furry Vengeance is exactly what's wrong with most comedies aimed at children.

It's difficult to say whether the movie started with a screenplay or a checklist of every overused example of slapstick comedy in the books. Presumably the filmmakers thought that if they geared their movie at a young enough audience they'd be lucky enough to find viewers who hadn't seen these jokes thousands of times before and might be able to trick them into laughing. That's probably true, but it's unfair to let children think that this passes for comedy.

The film stars Brendan Fraser as a father who uproots his wife (Brooke Shields) and son to take them to a woodland community where he will oversee the decimation of the forest in favour of strip

malls and suburbs.

Somehow the animals find out and set about torturing Fraser to stop the development. Cue an endless series of pratfalls, potty jokes, and grown men getting hit in the groin.

Fraser can't be criticized for a lack of energy as he plays every joke like it's genius and commits to countless physical gags that must have led to injury.

Unfortunately, he just doesn't get many laughs nor does Brooke Shields.

Most of the screen time is dedicated to countless woodland creatures (who clearly weren't filmed with the actors) and their cartoony CGI equivalents. A couple of consistent comedic performers like The Hangover's Ken Jeong and Daily Show veterans Samantha Bee and Rob Riggle improvise a handful of decent jokes, but not nearly enough.

If you have children young enough to be susceptible to this sort of simplistic comedy, please steer them away. You'll only encourage this type of filmmaking to continue.

• For a trailer of Furry Vengeance, screen times and photos, visit [metronews.ca/movies](http://metronews.ca/movies).

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Lee reads *Life of Pi* in 3-D

Ang Lee has revealed that he is working on a Hollywood version of Yann Martel's novel *Life of Pi*. The Brokeback Mountain director has pitched "a 3-D magical fantasy adventure, crammed with visual effects" to his studios. [EMPIREONLINE.COM](http://EMPIREONLINE.COM)



## Reel Time

\*\*\*\*\* A CLASSIC; \*\*\*\* EXCELLENT; \*\*\* GOOD; \*\* FAIR; \* POOR

# A Nightmare on failure Street

## A Nightmare on Elm Street

**Director:** Sam Bayer  
**Stars:** Jackie Earle Haley, Rooney Mara  
**Classification:** 18A  
**Rating:** \*

CHRIS ALEXANDER  
 for Metro Canada



The brilliance of Wes Craven's original *A Nightmare on Elm Street* was that it took the already tired '80s trend of stalk and slash "dead teenager" films (as Roger Ebert would call them) and completely threw it off its axis, combining nubile damsel-in-distress clichés with abstract, anything goes surrealism/expressionist dream logic.

The film is a classic, and rightfully so. Sam Bayer's



Rooney Mara plays Nancy — a teen tormented by Freddy Krueger in her dreams — in the remake of *A Nightmare on Elm Street*.

mammoth budgeted remake is not. In fact it ain't much of anything.

Recycling not only the plot but most of the original's set pieces, NOES 2010 stars a gaggle of vacant, pretty teens who battle sleep deprivation in order to evade the nightmare infiltrating, razor-gloved

wrath of a scar tissue coated boogeyman named Freddy Krueger (Watchman's Jackie Earle Haley). We know they're sleep deprived because the lads have perfectly manicured stubble and ruffled shocks of hair while the ladies sport snazzy junkie-chic designer makeovers. Like in

the original, said catalogue casualties get butchered in their dreams and then explode into hamburger in real life as well. It's up to doe-eyed Nancy (Rooney Mara, who at least shows some semblance of life) and her histrionic emo pal Quentin (Kyle Gallner) to get to the bottom of the mystery be-

fore the entire neighborhood falls prey to the stink end of Freddy's fingers.

Produced by Michael Bay's franchise plundering Platinum Dunes imprint, *A Nightmare on Elm Street* makes Bay's last horror hack job Friday The 13th look like Double Indemnity. This is truly a shrug of a

film that aims to duplicate the tone of the original while tinkering with virtually every aspect of it that made it work.

Haley is poorly used and lacks enough menace for the role of a homicidal, undead child molester; every time he's on screen, you'll find yourself pining for Robert Englund.

Director Bayer fails to exploit the liquid possibilities of the dream landscape, the script is non-existent, the actors have little to do but run and scream and the entire reason for Freddy's existence is so watery and weak that it barely registers.

This is a film designed by suits in boardrooms, with charts and graphs and contempt for their audiences.

• For a trailer of *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, screen times and photos, visit [metronews.ca/movies](http://metronews.ca/movies).



A scene from *The Perfect Game*.

## Perfect Game's got heart

### The Perfect Game

**Director:** William Dear  
**Stars:** Clifton Collins Jr., Cheech Marin, Emilie De Ravin  
**Classification:** PG  
**Rating:** \*\*

PHIL BROWN  
 for Metro Canada



**REVIEW** The *Perfect Game* is an unashamedly corny movie that crams in practically every sports movie cliché into a tight running time.

However, it's also a surprisingly warm and touching film that works thanks to an inspiring central story and an impressive cast.

Toronto-born director William Dear (Harry And The Hendersons) tells the tale of the 1957 Mexican little league baseball team that was so poor they walked across the border to their first game, but ended up winning the championship.

The film opens in a depressed industrial Mexican

community. The children run around with nothing to do when they aren't following the Brooklyn Dodgers on the radio with an almost religious devotion.

Cheech Marin plays the local priest (yep, that Cheech and he's quite good as well) who decides to start up a baseball team to give the kids something to do. He soon enlists the coaching duties of a local ne'er do well who left the St. Luis Cardinals minor league system due racism (played by the perpetually underrated Clifton Collins Jr. in a rare lead role). He turns the children into a talented team and then ... well you know the rest. As the title suggests, the 1957 Little League World Series ends with the only perfect game ever pitched in that setting.

This is a very simple story filled with plenty of drippy sentimentality and scenes with child actors shamelessly mugging for the camera. However, the movie is also incredibly sweet.

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PG

LettersToJuliet-Movie.com

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## Gunless lacks ammo

### Gunless

Director: William Phillips

Stars: Paul Gross,

Sienna Guillory

Classification: PG

Rating: 2.5/5

STEVE GOW  
for Metro Canada

There's one thing you have to say about what is perhaps this country's very first theatrically-released contemporary comic western — it doesn't take itself seriously.

On the other hand, Gunless isn't entirely hilarious either, which leaves the film a bit in the lurch. Instead, this Paul Gross-vehicle is one movie that sputters and stalls.

I reckon there's too much dust in the carburetor.

Gross (Passchendaele) plays the wanted Montana Kid — an American outlaw who suddenly shows up disoriented in the fictional Canuck town of Barclay's Brush where he immediately challenges a blacksmith to a gunfight.

The only problem: There



Paul Gross stars as an American outlaw in the comedy Gunless.

are no working pistols in Barclay's Brush. While The Kid bides his time waiting for the necessary repairs to an old sidearm, he soon warms up to the peace-loving locals — most notably Jane (Sienna Guillory of Inkheart), a tough-talking settler who rejects his gun-toting ways.

While writer/director William Phillips certainly accomplishes the task of touching upon the necessary iconography of the Wild West and delivering an authentic-looking duster (it helped that the film was shot in Canada's most arid region — Osoyoos, B.C.), the

film suffers from a conventionalized, modest story and an eye-rolling intentness on painting a Canadian portrait which, in this type of maple syrup-infused adventure, comes off slightly hokey.

A genre that's been around as long as film itself, nobody should expect a western to be avant garde. But it does need to excite moviegoers and in this case, the unique comic spin of an American gunslinger lost in Canada is almost as flat as the rolling prairies.

For a trailer of Gunless, screen times and photos, visit [metronews.ca/movies](http://metronews.ca/movies).




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## IMAX

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake  
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The Losers is in theatres now.

**Date Night** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 1:50-4:20-7:20-9:50 Stadium Seating Sat 1:50-4:20-7:20-9:50-11:55 Stadium Seating Sun 1:50-4:20-7:20-9:50 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:50-4:20-7:20-9:50**Death at a Funeral** (14) Stadium Seating Fri 1:40-3:50-6:45-8:50-11:20 Stadium Seating Sat 1:40-3:50-6:45-8:50-11:20 Stadium Seating Sun 1:40-3:50-6:45-8:50-11:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:40-3:50-6:45-8:50**The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (18) Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Fri 1-4:15-7:30 Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Sat 1-4:15-7:30-10:40 Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Sun 1-4:15-7:30 Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Mon-Thu 4:15-7:30**Gunless** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 2-4:10-6:50-9 Stadium Seating Sat 2-4:10-6:50-9 Stadium Seating Sun 2-4:10-6:50-9 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:10-6:50-9**Iron Man 2** (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 11:59**Kick-Ass** (18) Stadium Seating Fri 1:05-3:45-6:30-9:10 Stadium Seating Sat 6:30-9:10-11:30 Stadium Seating Sun 1:05-3:45-6:30-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:45-6:30-9:10**The Losers** (14) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:20-3:50-6:30-9**Date Night** (PG) Stadium Seating Sat 4:7-9:40-11:40 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 1:30-4:7-9:40 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:7-9:40**A Nightmare on Elm Street** (18) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 1:20-3:40-7:10-9:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat 1:20-3:40-7:10-9:30-11:50 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 1:20-3:40-7:10-9:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:40-7:10-9:30

## LOWER SACKVILLE

## LOWER SACKVILLE

760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza  
902-869-2022**The Back-up Plan** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 7:10-9:30 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:10-4:25-7:10-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30**Date Night** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 7:9-15 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:20-4:40-7:9-15 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:9-15**Furry Vengeance** (G) Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:20-3:50-6:30-9**Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-9**  
**Gunless** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 7:05-9:10 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:15-4:30-7:05-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:05-9:10**How to Train Your Dragon** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-8:50 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:25-4:10-6:30-8:50 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-8:50**The Losers** (14) Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9:05 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:40-6:45-9:05 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45-9:05**A Nightmare on Elm Street** (18) Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:30-4:40-6:40-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-9:20

## DARTMOUTH

## DARTMOUTH CROSSING

145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing  
902-481-3251**Alice in Wonderland 3D** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 9:20**The Back-up Plan** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-3:50-6:40-9:20 by Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:40-9:20**Clash of the Titans 3D** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:45**Date Night** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:55-3:20-6:20-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:20-3:40-6:20-8:50**Death at a Funeral** (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:05-3:35-6:10-8:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:15-3:35-6:10-8:30**Furry Vengeance** (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:25-3:45-6:30-9**Gunless** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 2:43-5:37-8:10-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 2:10-4:35-7:30-9:50**How to Train Your Dragon 3D** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-

7:20-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:20-9:45

**Iron Man 2** (STC) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:01**Kenny Chesney: Summer in 3D** (G) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2-4:30**Kick-Ass** (18) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 9:30**The Last Song** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:40-4:25-7:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:50-4:25-7:05**The Losers** (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:30-4:15-7:10-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 6:20-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 7:10-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:40-4:15-7:10-9:40**The Metropolitan Opera: Armida - Live** (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2**A Nightmare on Elm Street** (18) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:15-4:50-9:20 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:35-4:50-9:20**Oceans** (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:50-4:20-7:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:50-4:20-7:10**The Perfect Game** (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:35-9:35

Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:34-5-6:35-9:15

## TRURO

## TRURO

20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook  
902-895-8020**The Back-up Plan** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 7-9:35 Stadium Seating Sat 2:10-7-9:35 Stadium Seating Sun 2:10-6:30-8:45 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-8:45**Date Night** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 7:20-9:25 Stadium Seating Sat 2:40-7:20-9:25 Stadium Seating Sun 2:40-6:40-8:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-8:40**Death at a Funeral** (14) Stadium Seating Fri 7:10-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat 2:20-7:10-9:20 Stadium Seating Sun 2:20-6:50-8:50 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-8:50**Furry Vengeance** (G) Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9:10 Stadium Seating Sat 2:30-6:30-9:10 Stadium Seating Sun 2:30-6:30-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-9:10**Gunless** (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 7:30-9:40 Stadium Seating Sat 2:50-7:30-9:40 Stadium Seating Sun 2:50-7:30-9:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:30-9:40**The Losers** (14) Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9 Stadium Seating Sat 2:40-6:40-9 Stadium Seating Sun 2:40-6:40-9 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-9**A Nightmare on Elm Street** (18) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-9:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat 3:45-6:30-9:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 3:45-6:30-9:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:10-8:35

## BRIDGEWATER

## BRIDGEWATER

349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

**The Back-up Plan** (PG) Fri 6:40-9:10 Sat 2:15-6:40-9:10 Sun 2:15-5:55-8:25 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:25**Date Night** (PG) Fri 7:20-9:35 Sat 2:25-7:20-9:35 Sun 2:25-6:35-8:50 Mon-Thu 6:35-8:50**Death at a Funeral** (14) Fri-Sat 9:15-Sun 8:30**Furry Vengeance** (G) Fri 6:30-8:45 Sat 2:40-8:45 Sun 2:45-8:45 Mon-Thu 5:45-8**Gunless** (PG) Fri 7:10-9:25 Sat 2:20-7:10-9:25 Sun 2:20-6:25-8:40 Mon-Thu 6:25-8:40**How to Train Your Dragon** (PG) Fri 6:50 Sat 2:30-6:50 Sun 2:30-6:05 Mon-Thu 6:05**The Losers** (14) No Passes Fri 7:05-9:30 No Passes Sat 2:10-7:05-9:30 No Passes Sun 2:10-6:20-8:45 Mon 6:20-8:45 Tue-Wed 9:15 Thu 6:20-8:45**A Nightmare on Elm Street** (18) No Passes Fri 7:25-9:45 No Passes Sat 2:05-7:25-9:45 No Passes Sun 2:05-6:40-9 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:40-



## Music

## Rock scene dry as a bone

Pop music is king in Dubai

## SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

Scanning the skyline of Dubai is like watching bamboo grow. Nothing seems to be happening, but look away for a moment and it appears that all those skyscrapers under construction have grown by four floors.

As one of the most liberal areas in the Middle East, I'd expected to find a thriving rock scene. Iran, Iraq and Pakistan are quietly exporting metal bands. I've come to the desert of the UAE to drink from the waters of Western-style Arabic rock. I was misin-

formed.

The UAE is firmly in the thrall of pop. English-language radio features either Justin Bieber all the time or endless re-runs of '80s hits like Out of Touch by Hall and Oates.

Even buying music is difficult — not because of censorship issues, but because there's nowhere to buy it. The Dubai Mall — so big that you locate stores by latitude and longitude — has just one little music store.

The Mall of the Emirates — the one with the indoor ski hill where the temperature is kept at -3 C, even when it's 47 C outside — may have a Virgin Megastore (the only music retailer out of 466-plus shops), but its floor space is devoted to DVDs, video games, computers, Rock Band/Guitar Hero displays, musical instruments and T-shirts.



In Dubai, System of a Down frontman Serj Tankian, who has a successful solo career, is considered "Arabic rock."

The few racks of CDs are way at the back of the store. It took me 10 minutes to find them.

"Can you show me any local or regional rock?" I asked the person heading up the section.

"Here," he said, handing me a Serj Tankian CD, "Arabic rock."

"Um, no," I responded.

"This guy is Armenian, lives in California and was part of an American band called System of a Down." "No," said the clerk. "Arabic."

And so it went with him seemingly picking CDs at random and me gently explaining how he was wrong. In the end, he stumbled upon a genuine

**"English-language radio features either Justin Bieber all the time or endless re-runs of '80s hits like Out of Touch by Hall and Oates."**

local thrash-metal band called Nervecell. We also found a compilation CD featuring a Pakistani group called The Kominas who sing a song called Sharia Law in the USA! (I later read about an alt-rock group from Abu Dhabi called Juliana Down. I couldn't find any CDs but they do have a MySpace page.)

I tried one more time at duty-free at the airport. The clerk smiled and handed me a Justin Bieber CD.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at [ongoinghistory.com](http://ongoinghistory.com) and [exploremusic.com](http://exploremusic.com)

## Wavin' Flag raises \$1M for Haiti

**CHARTS** The star-studded benefit single version of Wavin' Flag continues to fly on top of the charts.

The song has spent seven straight weeks atop the radio charts and has raised more than \$1 million for victims of the earthquake in Haiti, according to a release issued by organizers.

The song features Drake, Justin Bieber and more than 50 artists remixing K'naan's original tune with Haiti-focused lyrics.

## In brief

**CHARTS** The following is HMV Canada's top 10 CDs:

1. Iron Man 2 Soundtrack, AC/DC
2. Fever, Bullet For My Valentine
3. Wavin' Flag, Young Artists for Haiti
4. My World 2.0, Justin Bieber
5. Need You Now, Lady Antebellum
6. Nikki, Nikki Yanofsky
7. B.o.B Presents the Adventures of Bobby Ray, B.o.B.
8. The Fame Monster, Lady Gaga
9. Nobody's Daughter, Hole
10. Glee: The Music, The Power of Madonna, Glee Cast

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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**One More Girl**

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TURN ON TOMORROW

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Thomas Haden Church and Claire Forlani have dropped out of Showtime's new comedy, Episodes. The show-within-a-show comedy stars Matt LeBlanc as a parody of himself who is cast in a catastrophic U.S. remake of a hit British series. **TVGUIDE.COM**

## Television

# The wives of Jersey are back in the house

In the first episode of *The Real Housewives of New Jersey* sophomore season, incendiary cast member Danielle Staub hangs out with her priest, pedicurist and daughters — but not any of the soapy Bravo reality series' other housewives.

It seems the rift between Staub and her fellow lead-

ing ladies is now larger than a Garden State hairdo.

"I think in the first season, it caught me off guard," said Staub. "I thought at least one of them was truly being a friend to me, whereas as this season pans out, I realize that's not the case."

Staub adds that this sea-

son, which premieres Monday, she's "not going to be anyone's patsy. I think the world will be just as interested in me as a single person as they will be in them as a group."

Staub, a single 47-year-old mother of two daughters, continues to be on one side of the Jersey barrier opposite sisters Dina

and Caroline Manzo, their sister-in-law Jacqueline Laurita and family friend Teresa Giudice, who famously savaged a table at a restaurant in last season's finale when the women confronted Staub about her alleged criminal past.

"What's amazing to me about this second season is it's so much about family,"



The cast from *The Real Housewives of New Jersey*, left to right, Dina Manzo, Teresa Giudice, Caroline Manzo and Jacqueline Laurita, star in a new season on Bravo.

said Andy Cohen, Bravo's senior vice-president of original programming and development who also hosts *The Real Housewives* reunion shows.

"Each of these women are mothers, and they all have different, intense and interesting things going on with their children this season."

The reality TV drama entered the courtroom earlier this year when Ashley Holmes, Laurita's 19-year-old daughter, was found guilty in a municipal court on one count of assault and ordered to pay a fine after Staub complained that Holmes ripped out a clump of her hair extensions during an altercation, which will apparently factor into the second season.

"It was very painful, really unexpected and much undeserved," said Staub.

"Police showed up, charges were made and it was up to the state. I wasn't going to allow anyone to put their hands on me without thinking there were repercussions because I'm not

**"I wasn't going to allow anyone to put their hands on me without thinking there were repercussions because I'm not garbage."**

Danielle Staub  
The Real Housewives  
of New Jersey

garbage. I'm actually a good person who deserves to go where I want to go without people attacking me."

Staub, who was accused of being an escort and drug addict in the first season, said she will tell her side in her upcoming autobiography, *The Naked Truth: The Real Story Behind the Real Housewife of New Jersey* — In Her Own Words. Despite Staub's rocky relationship with her Real Housewives cast members, she'd "absolutely" sign up for a third season.

"It's not about them," said Staub. "My life is never going to be about them." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



For April 29th

- 9 Lady Gaga - Alejandro
- 8 Traviie McCoy Ft Bruno Mars - Billionaire
- 7 Shawn Desman - Shiver
- 6 Taio Cruz Ft Ludacris - Break Your Heart
- 5 Drake - Over
- 4 B.o.B Ft Bruno Mars - Nothin' On You
- 3 Down With Webster - Your Man
- 2 Ke\$ha - Your Love Is My Drug
- 1 Hedley - Perfect

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# John credits boy with sobriety

**Elton John says he's been sober for 20 years, since shortly after the death of an Indiana teen with AIDS who the musician credits with inspiring him to turn his life around.**

John was in Indianapolis on Wednesday to headline a benefit celebrating the life and legacy of Ryan White. The 18-year-old died on April 8, 1990, about five years after contracting HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, through a tainted blood transfusion to treat his hemophilia.

The singer befriended

the boy during his public battle for acceptance after he was banned from a central Indiana school at age 13, bringing national attention to HIV/AIDS education and the plight of children with HIV in the 1980s. John was at Riley Children's Hospital when White died and was a pall-bearer and performed at the funeral.

"It was one of the greatest things in my life to meet Ryan's family, to be there the last week to try and help, and then for that wonderful message that he



Elton John performs at a tribute for Ryan White on Wednesday.

gave me to change my life around," John told The Associated Press. "It was weird to take stock and think of it — I'm 20 years

sober this year, and it's 20 years since Ryan died, because I got sober shortly afterward."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News Center	World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Wife Swap (N)		Wife Swap (N)		20/20
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)		Wife Swap (N)		Wife Swap (N)		Miami Medical
11	11	11	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	NHL Hockey Playoffs: Teams TBA		(HDTV) (Live)				National
32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ghost Whisperer (N)		Medium "Sal" (N)		Miami Medical
6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	(8:01) Brothers & Sisters		House "Broken" (HDTV PA)				News Final (N)
9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Access H.	Medium "Sal" (N)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		The Bridge (N) (DVS)		CTV News
36	36	36	FOX	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men		House "Broken" (HDTV PA)				Fox First
12	12	12	NBC	News	Nightly News	Access H.	Extra (N)	Who Do You Think You Are?		Dateline NBC (HDTV)		
55	55	55	SCOR	HSR	Covers	Poker Canada Cup		WWE SmackDown!				Wrestling
53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	NHL Hockey						SportsCentre
16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami "Innocent"		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal
70	70	70	APTN	APTN National News (N)		Fish Out of	Blessings	Cashing In	Rabbit Fall	The River Rat ** (1984, Adventure)		
37	37	37	BRVO	Emily of New Moon		Spectacle: Elvis		BravoFACT	Cover Stories	White Collar "All In"		Dexter
49	49	49	COM	Just for Laughs		Air Force	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now
18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitz		John King, USA (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Dirty Jobs		Man vs. Wild "Zambia"		Egypt Unwrap
48	48	48	HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home		House	For Rent	House	House	Relocation: Phil Down Under		House
46	46	46	HIST	Ultimate Engineering		Ax Men (HDTV)		Nostradamus Effect		Cities of the Underworld		Hitler-Occult
17	17	17	MM	Buffy the Vampire Slayer		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	The Vampire Diaries		Love Don't Cost a Thing ** (2003)		
206	206	206	PIX	(5:45) The Chase		(8:10) Universal Soldier III: Unfinished Business				Monster's Ball *** (2001, Drama)		
39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter		Ogre (2008, Fantasy) John Schneider				Kenny vs.
40	40	40	SLICE	Til Debt-Part	Wedding SOS	Rich Bride Poor Bride		Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part		Spoiled Rot.
21	21	21	TLC	Say Yes	Say Yes	Four Weddings (HDTV)		Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes		Weddings
22	22	22	W	House-Sell	House-Sell	Supernanny		How to Look Good Naked		Maid in Manhattan (2002, Romance-Comedy)		
27	27	27	YTV	iCarly	To Be Indie	Material Girls * (2006, Comedy-Drama) Hilary Duff.		Things I Hate	Survive This	To Be Indie		

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News Center	World News	Inside Edition	At the Movies	Meet the Fockers ** (2004, Comedy) Robert De Niro.				Castle
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Team Spirit		Comeback Season ** (2006, Comedy-Drama) (DVS)				Stargate Atl.
11	11	11	CBC	National	Hockey Night	NHL Hockey Playoffs: Teams TBA		(HDTV) (Live)				Movie
32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Patriots	Jeopardy!	NCIS (HDTV)		The Mentalist (HDTV)		48 Hours.
6	6	6	CHIF	16-9 Pictures	renewed	Disappearance of the PX-15		Aboriginal Achievement Awards 2010		Legends-Lore		News Final (N)
9	9	9	CJCH	W5 (DVS)		Spectacle: Elvis		Flashpoint		Law & Order		CTV News
36	36	36	FOX	Friends	Friends	NASCAR Racing Sprint Cup: Heath Calhoun 400. (HDTV) (Live)				Law & Order (HDTV)		Law & Order
12	12	12	NBC	Horse Racing		Access Hollywood (N)		Parenthood (HDTV)				
55	55	55	SCOR	MMA Show	Footy Show	WWE Vintage Collection		Score Rewind	Cabby Unlimit	Score Now	Footy Show	Score Now
53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre (HDTV)		NASCAR Racing Sprint Cup: Heath Calhoun 400. (HDTV) (Live)						
16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal
70	70	70	APTN	Tears	The Mix	MTV	Rez Tunez	Aboriginal Day		Aboriginal Achievement Awards 2010		
37	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravo/Videos	Territories		Star Portraits	Books-Film	Alpha Dog ** (2006, Crime Drama)		
49	49	49	COM	Comedy Now (DVS)		Corner Gas	Corner Gas	Hiccups	Dan for Mayor	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Jeff Dunham
18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitz		Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	Destroyed	Destroyed	Deadliest Catch		License
48	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		Buy Me	Agent-Agent	Property	For Rent	Outdoor Room	Genevieve	Makeover
46	46	46	HIST	Storm Planets (HDTV)		Nostradamus Effect		Cities of the Underworld		Catch Me If You Can *** (2002)		
17	17	17	MM	The Vampire Diaries		Love Don't Cost a Thing (2003, Romance-Comedy)		MuchMusic Countdown		13 Going on 30 *** (2004)		
206	206	206	PIX	(5:30) The Firm		(8:15) Exit Wounds * (2001, Action) Steven Seagal.						
39	39	39	SHOW	Fool's Gold	About a Girl	ReGenesis (HDTV)		A Woman's Rage (2008, Suspense)		Brandy Ledford.		Fool's Gold
40	40	40	SLICE	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives of NYC		Real Housewives-Atlanta		Real Housewives, Orange		Project Runway
21	21	21	TLC	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		Disappeared (HDTV)		Disappeared
22	22	22	W	Dirty Dancing	Take the Lead ** (2006, Musical) Antonio Banderas.	Rob Brown.		Shall We Dance? (2004, Romance-Comedy)				
27	27	27	YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News Center	World News	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		Brothers
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		TMZ (N)		Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		Monk		Law & Order
11	11	11	CBC	The Nature of Things		Don Cop, Bad Cop (2006, Comedy)		Colin Fere.		CBC News: The National		fifth estate
32	32	32	CBS	Evening News	WBZ News (N)	60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		The Amazing Race 16		Cold Case (HDTV) (N)		Cold Case (N)
6	6	6	CHIF	Global Nat.	16-9 Picture	Family Guy (PA) (N)		The Simpsons	Cleveland	The Celebrity Apprentice (HDTV) (N)		
9	9	9	CJCH	Cold Case (HDTV) (N)		Cold Case "Shattered"		The Amazing Race 16		Desperate Housewives		CTV News
36	36	36	FOX	Cold Case "Family"		"Til Death (N)		The Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy (PA) (N)		Fox First
12	12	12	NBC	News	Nightly News	Dateline NBC (HDTV)		Minute to Win It (N)		The Celebrity Apprentice (HDTV) (N)		
55	55	55	SCOR	Score Today		The WWE Experience		MMA Fight Night		Score Rewind		Score Now
53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre (HDTV)		NHL Hockey						SportsCentre
16	16	16	A&E	Family Jewels	Family Jewels	Family Jewels	Family Jewels	Family Jewels	Family Jewels	Family Jewels	Family Jewels	Kirstie Alley
70	70	70	APTN	Mighty River	Down2Earth	Canadian Geographic		Call of the Wild (Part 2 of 2)		We Shall Remain: After the Mayflower		
37	37	37	BRVO	Territories		Arts & Minds	BravoFACT	Spectacle: Elvis		Ladder 49 ** (2004, Drama)		
49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Laughs	Hiccups	Dan for Mayor	Comedy Now (DVS)		South Park	Ugly	We Can Be
18	18	18	CNN	Newsroom		Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		Newsroom
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	MythBusters		Cosmic Collisions Meteors and asteroids. (N)		MythBusters		House-Bryan
48	48	48	HGTV	Holmes Inspection		House	House	Sarah's House	Home to Flip	Holmes Inspection		
46	46	46	HIST	Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Ice Road Truckers (HDTV)		Dogfights		Rescue Dawn *** (2006, War)		
17	17	17	MM	Secret Life of American Teen		Secret Life of American Teen		MuchMusic Countdown		Video on Trial		Video on Trial
206	206	206	PIX	(6:35) Blankman **		(8:15) A Soldier's Story *** (1984, Mystery)				XXX ** (2002, Action) Vin Diesel.		
39	39	39	SHOW	(5) Click	Kink in Hair	Pure Pwinge	Trailer Park	How I Married My High School Crush (2007, Romance)		Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS	Sweeney
40	40	40	SLICE	Buy Me	Buy Me	The Big Plop	Marriage	Rich Bride Poor Bride		Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS	Heard-Genius
21	21	21	TLC	Untold Stories of the E.R.		I Was Dead (HDTV)		Seeing vs. Believing (N)		Hooding: Buried Alive		Hard-Buried
22	22	22	W	Shall-Dance	Hollyw'd Best	Supernanny		Come Dine With Me "Exeter"		Cupcake Girls	Cupcake Girls	Come Dance
27	27	27	YTV	Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over ** (2003, Adventure)				To Be Indie	Family Biz	Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This



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## 30 movies&amp;entertainment

## Going Out

## Sam's stay in Happy Town

NED EHRBAR  
Metro World News



**Veteran New Zealand actor Sam Neill returns to television with Happy Town, a new mystery series on ABC with tones of Twin Peaks.**

For the eternally boyish Neill, the series is as much fun to try to figure out as it is to take part in. He talked with Metro about solving mysteries, being the senior cast member and making wine.

**Q What was it about Happy Town that made you want to sign up?**

**A** Well, I was not particularly looking for a TV show. The first two scripts came through the door, and I thought this was such original and arresting and funny stuff, and also a character that I could really work with. I've been offered doctors from the Bronx and cops from Miami, and I don't know what to do with those characters. But this was a character that I thought, this was fine. I like this.

**Q Does the rest of the cast sort of look up to you like an elder statesman?**

**A** The question is, am I the elderly statesman on the thing? Well, I'm certainly the oldest in the cast. And I am surrounded by these beautiful young things, you know, which is slightly aggravating. But they're all very nice, beautiful young things, and we all get on very well. We're having a ball, actually.

**Q Your character seems like a very enigmatic, secretive presence on the show.**

**A** Well, he's an outsider clearly. And sometimes it takes an outsider to see things with clarity. And this is a town which is a labyrinthine, and there are secrets covering secrets. It's a town that ostensibly seems idyllic, the sort of town that we all would like to live in. But, of course, every town has its past and every place has things they'd sooner forget. Merritt is a man that's been involved in dark things. I don't see him as a villain, but he's certainly a man that there is a lot more to be learned about.

**Q Do you have any guesses as to who the mysterious Magic Man on the show is?**

**A** You know, there's a lot of money being changed hands on this, between us. And currently I've actually — no, I can't say, because tomorrow I will change my mind again. But, you know, the Magic Man thing is only one mystery. When it becomes apparent who that is, more mysteries will be revealed. Every mystery triggers another one. And



Veteran film actor Sam Neill stars in Happy Town, a new TV mystery series that is being compared to Twin Peaks.

no life is straightforward in Happy Town."

**Q You've also started making your own wine. How is that going?**

**A** Yes, I've got three vineyards, and I produce a wine called Two Padlocks. I think we're on our 12th vintage now, something like that. And it is a serious business. I wish I had a head for business, because it doesn't make

me any money. That's the down side. The up side is that it's an incredibly enjoyable thing to do when we get to produce a great wine, which we often do. It's enormously satisfying. But I've also got goats and sheep, and I've got lavender and produce honey. And organic vegetables and all those kind of things. But wine is the main thing that we do.

**Happy Town  
airs  
Wednesdays  
on ABC**

it's a good day to shop.



**Longoria Parker fragrance**

Eva Longoria Parker developed her own fragrance because she is allergic to so many ingredients. The actress admitted she was always envious of other women who could wear perfume before it occurred to her to make her own. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

movies&entertainment **31****Metro's 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven:** Metro taps what's hot right now**1 True Blood minisodes****ONLINE** Season

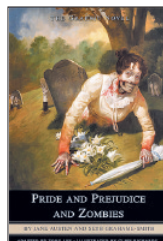
three of True Blood doesn't hit the air until June, but HBO has released a minisode featuring vampires Eric and Pam interviewing potential talent for their club, Fangtasia. Entertainment Weekly reports this is the first of six teasers to be released over the next few weeks.

**2 Betty White****TV** Like a fine wine, Betty

White seems to get more endearing with age. The former Golden Girls star is set to guest host Saturday Night Live on May 8 — all thanks to a grassroots Facebook petition. There is even a new YouTube tribute video to the white-haired actress set to the classic song White Lines.

**3 Pride and Prejudice and Zombies — the graphic novel****POP CULTURE** Straight on

the heels of Twilight's turn into a graphic novel comes this updated version of the Jane Austen classic. The book, with zombies added by Seth Grahame-Smith, has been out for a while, but now you can actually see corseted-heroine Elizabeth Bennet kick some zombie butt.

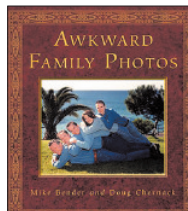
**4 Iron Man 2****MOVIES** Robert Downey Jr. reprises his role of Tony

Stark, a.k.a. Iron Man, in this sequel to the 2008 superhero movie. Will Stark reveal the technology behind his metal alter-ego? Will Pepper Potts finally get her

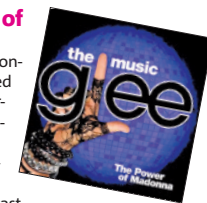
man? Iron Man 2 opens on May 7.

**5 Awkward Family Photos****BOOK** The guys behind AwkwardFamilyPhotos.com

— Mike Bender and Doug Chernack — have collected some of the most humorous and horrifying family photos and put them together in this book. From matching outfits, to crazy hair and posed shots, it's all very hilarious — and chances are you will be able to spot your own family in this collection.

**6 Glee — The Power of Madonna****MUSIC** Glee's recent Madonna-themed episode turned

out to be a ratings juggernaut for the series, and Internet gossip is already predicting the show will take another stab at the Material Girl. Until then, fans of the show can pop a new CD — featuring the cast performing seven Madonna songs — into their stereos.

**7 Nine****DVD** It's time to plan an Italian night; and I am not

talking about a spaghetti supper. The multiple award-nominated Nine — starring Daniel Day Lewis and a bevy of beautiful women — hits stores shelves on Tuesday.

**Mix of Six****David Wilcox**

When: Saturday, 8 p.m.

Where: The Schooner Room, Casino Nova Scotia

One of the hottest guitar players in the world, Wilcox is also a talented songwriter and singer that has deemed him icon status among some. He has five gold and platinum albums on his resume too along with numerous music awards. Tickets are \$41.

**Premier Basketball League all-star game**

When: Saturday, 5 and 7:15

p.m.; Sunday 3 p.m.

Where: Halifax Metro Centre

The best-of-the-best in the PBL are coming to Halifax for this showcase weekend which will feature a legends game, three-point shooting competition and slam dunk contest on Saturday and an all-star game on Sunday. Weekend ticket packages for lower bowl seating are between \$15 and \$25.

**SuperNova Theatre Festival**

When: Through May 9

Where: Neptune Studio Theatre

This 17th annual event hosted by Eastern Front Theatre will see four plays on the stage this weekend, including Piaf: Love Conquers All, The Bone House and The Misfit. For information, visit [easternfronttheatre.com](http://easternfronttheatre.com).

**Old Man Luedecke**

When: Friday, 8 p.m.

Where: Rebecca Cohn Auditorium

This Juno Award winning artist is performing a solo show that will showcase his immense talents as the Banjo Songster. Luedecke is touring in support of his latest album My Hands Are On Fire and Other Love Songs. Tickets are \$26.50 and \$31.50 on the day of show.

**Denise Fujiwara**

When: Through Saturday, 8 p.m.

Where: Sir James Dunn Theatre

Presented by Live Art Dance, Fujiwara is returning to Halifax for the first time in 10 years with a new work titled Lost & Found, described as a richly visual dance jewel. The staged trio No Exit will also be performed as the opener. Adult tickets are \$24.

**Peter Pan**

When: Through May 30

Where: Neptune Theatre's Fountain Hall

This musical fairy tale is set to come to life in what is sure to be a hit with audiences. The play stars Stephen Roberts in the role of Peter Pan, and will see the Ontario-born actor doing many acrobatic moves on stage. For ticket information, visit [neptunetheatre.com](http://neptunetheatre.com).

**Beatles' A Day in the Life handwritten lyrics to go on sale**

**For the right price, some lucky Beatlemaniac will be able to own the lyrics to the final song on the Beatles album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.**

John Lennon's handwritten lyrics to the Beatles classic A Day in the Life are being auctioned in June, Sotheby's announced on Thursday. The double-sided sheet of paper fea-

tures Lennon's edits and corrections in his own hand — in black felt marker and blue ball point pen, with a few annotations in red ink.

It is expected to fetch between \$500,000 and \$700,000 when it is sold in New York on June 18.

Rolling Stone magazine listed A Day in the Life at No. 26 in its compilation of the 500 Greatest Songs of

All Time and Sgt. Pepper won four Grammy awards in 1968.

The lyrics stirred controversy when the Beatles released the album in 1967. The song was banned by the BBC because it twice features the line, "I'd love to turn you on," which was interpreted as supporting illegal drug use.

The album's Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds was al-

leged to have glorified the use of the hallucinogenic LSD, a claim that band members denied.

In addition, A Day in the Life features the lyric "he blew his mind out in a car," which Beatles aficionados claim is a reference to the accidental death of Tara Browne, the Guinness heir and close friend of both Lennon and Paul McCartney.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



John Lennon's handwritten lyrics to the Beatles classic A Day in the Life are being auctioned in June. The song appears on the Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album (pictured).

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# Mellowing out with MGMT

Band switches gears following breakthrough success of debut

CAM LINDSAY  
for Metro Canada

**Not everyone is suited for fame. Just ask MGMT.**

Having sold more than a million copies of their 2008 breakthrough album, *Oracular Spectacular*, and found an unlikely mainstream audience, Andrew VanWyngarden and Ben Goldwasser became overwhelmed by it all.

"Ben and I are really kind of quiet," explains VanWyngarden. "We like mellow times. We've had a lot of fun, but we definitely weren't prepared for that, we didn't know what was going to happen."

After all the Grammy nominations, album of the year honours and bona fide commercial radio hits, MGMT did the only thing they could — they wrote about it.

Over the phone en route to Coachella, VanWyngarden makes the new MGMT album, *Congratulations*, sound as though it was written as a stress reliever.

"A lot of this new album is expressing that feeling of being overwhelmed and frustrated to the point where the media is portraying you in ways you don't want to be portrayed and you can't do anything about it," he says.

Congratulations, it's safe



*Congratulations*'s whimsical forays into British folk, psychedelia and prog rock have almost entirely replaced the hooky, electro-glam-pop of MGMT's breakthrough debut, *Oracular Spectacular*.

to say, is not the album most people were expecting from MGMT. Co-produced by their mutual hero Pete "Sonic Boom" Kember (Spectrum, ex-Spacemen 3), the album's whimsical for-

ays into British folk, psychedelia and prog rock have almost entirely replaced the hooky, electro-glam-pop of their debut.

VanWyngarden and Goldwasser have spoken out

about how it was written as a full-length album without any anthems like Kids and Time To Pretend in mind.

But VanWyngarden is also quick to say that *Oracular Spectacular* is "still very

much a part of them." He just feels *Congratulations* is a better representation of where MGMT's creative interests currently lie.

"I think we were always bigger fans of weird psychedelic and folk music," he explains. "I don't think this is the ultimate album or our big statement. It just reflects who we are and what we were listening to last year. The next record we make will probably be very different from this one."

For the time being though, VanWyngarden is unfortunately still trying to convince some naysayers that *Congratulations* was completely intentional. "This album is more sweet, pretty pop music to us, so we don't really get why people accuse us of career suicide," he says with slight frustration.

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**Charges against Quaid's dropped**

Randy and Evi Quaid won't end up back in jail. The case against the pair, who failed to pay a \$10,000 hotel bill, is over. Charges against the actor have been dropped, while Evi pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor. [POPEATER.COM](http://POPEATER.COM)

# Crawford on all things Gossip Girl

**A career in broadcast journalism beckoned for Chase Crawford until his mum encouraged him to capitalise on his good looks and try acting.**

The US star of smash hit TV show *Gossip Girl* is now a fully-fledged international heart-throb and rather enjoying it.

Unknown a few years ago, Chase Crawford, 24, is now a star to American

teens since he plays the role of Nate Archibald in *Gossip Girl*. Metro met him in London.

**Q Why is *Gossip Girl* such a hit?**

**A** There is no miracle recipe, but I think we have gathered a lot of good ingredients — a good scenario, a good cast and a good shooting in the

heart of New York City. Also, it may sound sugary, but we all get along pretty well.

**Q Do you have things in common with Nate?**

**A** I can identify with him, although he's a bit too perfect and a bit humourless. It would be good if he robbed a bank from time to time!

**Q Is Taylor Momsen quitting the show?**

**A** No, she will just have a break for a month or two to play music (her rock band The Pretty Reckless).

**Q What's it like filming on the streets?**

**A** It can be complicated in summer time

with photographers all around and people stopping by to watch what's going on. It's not always easy to concentrate.

**Q Is "jet-set" New York something you were familiar with?**

**A** Not at all. I grew up in Texas in a pretty simple community.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Actor Chase Crawford.





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As a friendly reminder that George Clooney lives in Italy, military experts were called in to retrieve a cache of unexploded Second World War bombs discovered in the lake where the actor's home sits, popeater.com reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

**Clooney: So hot, even his house is explosive**

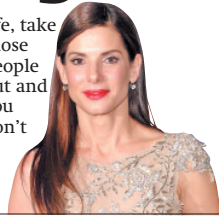
## Celebrity Buzz

# Bullock's moving on down to the Big Easy

**SAINT SANDRA OF NEW ORLEANS** It's a city synonymous with rebuilding — so New Orleans seems like the perfect place for Sandra Bullock to raise son Louis, people.com reports. "New Orleans is his city, and he is going to know it

inside and out," Bullock says in the exclusive cover story with the magazine, on newsstands now. "Without the spirit of the people who live there and take care of the city and honor its traditions, its love for music, its love for

life, take those people out and you don't



have why I love New Orleans so much."

Even before deciding to "find our child in New Orleans," Bullock was establishing significant ties to and a love for the Big Easy. After Hurricane Katrina, Bullock became a major

supporter of Warren Easton Charter High School, the first public high school for boys in Louisiana. In September Bullock put down more permanent roots, purchasing a home in the Garden District of New Orleans. The mansion

is reportedly near property owned by Treme star John Goodman and a home previously owned by writer Anne Rice, according to the Times-Picayune.

**METRO  
WORLD  
NEWS**

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

### CelebTweets

Today, **JOHN CUSACK** thinks his spell-check is trying to tell him something, **JOE**



**JONAS** is looking for a good time, **LEONARD NIMOY** has some decidedly non-Vulcan sentiments, and **CONAN O'BRIEN** is making new friends.

@johncusack i was typing to someone about the whitehouse press dinner and my iphone typed out whorehouse press dinner... did i mean that or is it a sign?

@joejonas Anyone in the LA area own a softball field we can play at?

@TheRealNimoy I am an incurable romantic. I believe in hope, dreams and decency, love tenderness and kindness. I believe in mankind.

@ConanOBrien I just ran into Ellen DeGeneres on the Warner Bros lot and we played ping pong. I think she's really into me.

**METRO  
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## Alba 'heats up' her NYC hotel room

**DISPELLING AIRHEARD RUMOURS: UR DOING IT WRONG** Disaster nearly struck in Jessica Alba's trendy New York hotel room when the actress tried to heat up some fish sticks for an early dinner and couldn't figure out how to work the oven, according to Page Six.

"She ended up almost causing a fire in her room," a source says. "Fire alarms ended up going off throughout the hotel."

The smoke was so bad that fire trucks had to come. Other guests in the hotel were quite displeased, according to the source.

**METRO  
WORLD  
NEWS**



## He's Pitted off

**HIGH SCHOOL. IT NEVER ENDS** Brad Pitt is reportedly displeased with Jennifer Aniston's cover story and photo shoot in Architectural Digest, since it's his favorite magazine — and one she used to make fun of him for reading, a source tells Us Weekly.

"Brad thinks she is pathetic," the source says. "(He) feels this is all so desperate. It was a ploy to get his attention."

**METRO  
WORLD  
NEWS**



## Brinkley and daughter get matching plastic pick-me-up

**CELEBRITIES: NOT JUST LIKE US** For some mother and daughter bonding, Christie Brinkley and Alexa Ray Joel got plastic surgery earlier this month, according to

Star magazine, hitting a New York doctor's office one day apart for procedures that set them back \$60,000, sources estimate. Brinkley reportedly went in for a face-lift, while Joel got a nose job. "Both Alexa and Christie are so happy," a source tells the magazine.

**METRO  
WORLD  
NEWS**



## Sandra will be a great mom, says her on-screen son

**AND PLEASE HIRE ME FOR YOUR NEXT MOVIE** The actor who played Sandra Bullock's adopted son in The Blind Side thinks the actress will be an amazing mom in real life.

"Just as she played an exceptional

mother in The Blind Side, her caring nature will make her an amazing mother to Louis," Quinton Aaron says, according to Hollyscoop. "I am truly overjoyed for Sandra. What amazing news and so special that she has been able to keep this time private between her and the baby."

**METRO  
WORLD  
NEWS**



## Lohan comes to her own defense

**BECAUSE SHE'S PRETTY MUCH THE ONLY PERSON LEFT ON THE PLANET WHO WILL** Lindsay Lohan decided to take her floundering public image into her own hands, calling into an L.A. radio station to set the record straight about her life. "Aside from the father drama, which is just nuts, I'm a nice person," she told Kiss FM's Jojo

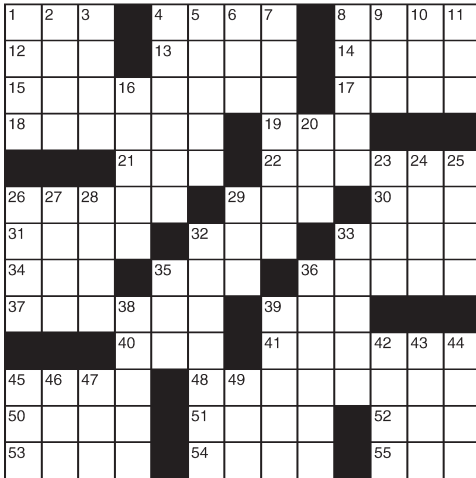
Wright, referencing Michael Lohan's claims in the press that Lindsay is a bad influence on her younger sister. "No one should ever have to worry about their father saying that publicly about them." As for her supposedly out-of-control partying, Lindsay said, "It's not a crime to go and have fun with your friends. I actually haven't been out in over a week."

**METRO WORLD NEWS**



For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: [metronews.ca/food](http://metronews.ca/food)

## Take Five



## ACROSS

1 Resort  
4 Practice pugilism  
8 Castle's protection  
12 Branch  
13 Ginormous  
14 Con  
15 Calm  
17 Profound  
18 Parodies  
19 Actress Thurman  
21 Remuneration  
22 Follow orders  
26 TV journalist Catherine  
29 A handful  
30 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"  
31 Top 10, e.g.  
32 Blue  
33 Microbrewery product  
34 Lemieux milieu  
35 Repair  
36 Raise a glass to  
37 Urge  
39 33-Across container

20 Do some lawn work  
23 Entreaty  
24 Falsehoods  
25 Mongolian tent  
26 Stylish  
27 Puerto —  
28 Detail  
29 Office machine  
32 Semiconductor element  
33 Big-time mistake  
35 Lawyer's due  
36 Six-foot sport fish  
38 Be overcome with emotion (SL)  
39 Intaglio's opposite  
42 Needing extra innings  
43 Old gasoline brand  
44 Oct. preceder  
45 English channel  
46 Cheerleader's word  
47 Wrath  
49 Tramcar load

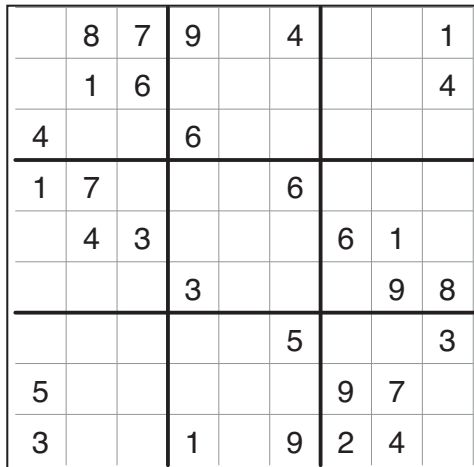
## DOWN

1 Pouches  
2 Shore (up)  
3 Bullets and such  
4 Ram's-horn trumpet  
5 — willow  
6 Time of your life?  
7 Lessened  
8 Sir's counterpart  
9 Indivisible  
10 Foolhardiness personified  
11 Gratuity  
16 Vatican VIPs

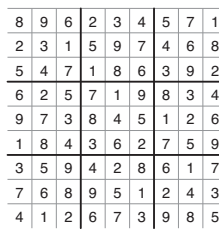
## Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



## PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



## On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

## Metro Recipe of the Day



## Parmesan Crusted Chicken

Recipe Developed by Paula Bowman

Photo: Carlo Mendoza

PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES

COOK TIME: 15 MINUTES

## INGREDIENTS:

2 egg whites, lightly beaten  
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
4 (6-7oz) skinless, boneless chicken breasts  
2 cups finely grated Parmesan cheese  
1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves, chopped

## METHOD:

1. Preheat broiler to high and set oven rack to top position. Lightly oil a rimmed sheet pan with olive oil and set aside.  
2. Meanwhile, mix egg whites with Dijon mustard and set aside. Place chicken breasts on a cutting board. With a knife parallel to the cutting board, cut chicken breasts in half lengthwise

to create two thin chicken breast cutlets. Working with one cutlet at a time, dip chicken into egg white mixture and then coat in Parmesan cheese and place on prepared sheet pan.

3. Broil chicken breasts until crunchy and golden on one side, flip over and continue to cook on other side until cooked through, about 4 minutes per side. Toss carrots with walnuts just before serving. Divide chicken cutlets and carrot mixture among four plates and serve with any remaining broth from pan.

## SERVES 4

• Serve this chicken with our *Garlic Glazed Carrots*. Find the recipe at [20minutesupperclub.com/metro](http://20minutesupperclub.com/metro).

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton [sallybrompton.com](http://sallybrompton.com)For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

**ARIES**  
MARCH 21-APRIL 20  
You will have to make sacrifices if you are going to turn your dreams into realities. At least the Sun's in the financial sector of your chart.



**TAURUS**  
APRIL 21-MAY 21  
Focus clearly on what it is you want out of life. The planets indicate that what you think about strongly over the next few days is likely to come true.



**LIBRA**  
SEPT 23-OCT 23  
No one can hide anything from you at the moment. Which might be the reason why certain people are avoiding you — they're worried.



**SCORPIO**  
OCT 24-NOV 22  
You need to be a bit more open about your feelings — not a lot, but enough to let certain people know that you are not emotionally distant.



**GEMINI**  
MAY 22-JUNE 21  
You may be outgoing by nature but there are times when you need to be alone and explore what's going on inside your mind, and this is one of them.



**SAGITTARIUS**  
NOV 23-DEC 21  
Nothing in life happens purely by chance, and if you keep that thought in mind today you will find it easier to accept what happens next.



**CANCER**  
JUNE 22-JULY 22  
Recent events, either in your private life or at work, have pointed you in a new direction that can help bring meaning and purpose to your existence.



**CAPRICORN**  
DEC 22-JAN 20  
You have a wonderful future, and if you don't believe that now you will start to believe it over the next few days.



**LEO**  
JULY 23-AUG 23  
Decide what your number one ambition is going to be, then get ready to make it happen. There will be no end of opportunities to move up.



**AQUARIUS**  
JAN 21-FEB 18  
If others have been critical of your behavior lately it is most likely because you don't play by the rules like they do and, to put it bluntly, they are jealous.



**VIRGO**  
AUG 24-SEPT 22  
So many of the things you have been worrying about mean nothing in the greater scheme of things.



**PISCES**  
FEB 19-MARCH 20  
You will find yourself in the company of people whose interests coincide with your own today and that's great.



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